

## France ends rift with Libya

PARIS (R) — France has released three Mirage fighter planes to Libya, ending a rift between the two countries and removing its defiance of a 1986 European embargo, official sources said Monday. The sources gave no further details and no official confirmation was available. But a French government official said shipping and telecommunications links were back to normal after having been severed in December. The United States condemned France's decision last November to deliver the Mirages, saying it broke a 1986 European embargo imposed because of Libya's alleged support for "terrorism" and its intervention in Chad. France backs Chad militarily and the sale of the Mirages was stopped for the first time in 1986 when France sent troops to Chad to help fight the Libyans. President Francois Mitterrand revoked the latest plans to deliver the fighters after Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi attacked his government's immigration policies. Following Mitterrand's order, Libya cut telecommunications and shipping links with France, hitting imports of French grain.

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## Badran meets PFLP officials

AMMAN (AP) — Prime Minister Badran Monday met with a delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the first such meeting in two decades. The meeting marked another step in the Kingdom's eight-month-old moves towards liberalisation. "We reiterated the need for the success of Jordan's infant democracy in consistency with the interests of both the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples," said PFLP political bureau member Tayseer Qubana. Qubana told the Associated Press that Badran "affirmed Jordan's stable support for the Palestinian people and their legitimate representative, the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation)." He said that Badran agreed to "continue contacts and coordination with us to follow up developments on common ground." The meeting was attended by another PFLP political bureau member, Asad Khawaja.

## RJ gets new Airbus

AMMAN (Petra) — An Airbus 320 plane joined Royal Jordanian (RJ) fleet Monday. The plane, which is the first one of three A320 planes to be received by RJ this year, accommodates 165 passengers. It will operate on short and medium range routes such as the Middle East and the Mediterranean states to replace planes that can operate on longer flights. The plane arrived at Queen Alia International Airport with RJ Chairman Khalidoun Abu Hassan and Jordan's Ambassador to France Awad Al Khalidi aboard. It was received in the airport by RJ Executive President Hussain Abu Ghazaleh and senior RJ officials.

## Lebanese central bank ends strike

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's Central Bank employees Monday called off an open-ended strike that was staged to protest an attempt to arrest the bank's governor. A statement issued in the name of the bank's 700 employees said they hoped such an incident will not happen again. Interior Minister Elias Khazen Thursday sent a police patrol to arrest Governor Edmond Naim, but the attempt was foiled by bank guards. A bank administrator was wounded in the brief shootout.

## OIC warns against Soviet immigration

JEDDAH (AP) — The 46-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) warned Monday that the Soviet Jewish influx into Palestine constituted a threat to world peace. "To confront the serious consequences of new migration of Soviet Jews to the (Israeli) occupied lands, the OIC urges all its members to use all possible means and methods to prevent the implementation of the Zionist plot," said a statement issued after a two-day meeting by a committee of OIC experts.

## Israel finds two tunnels

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel has discovered two tunnels linking the occupied Gaza Strip to Egypt, the army said Monday. An army spokeswoman said security forces uncovered the tunnels in the past month near the town of Rafah on Israel's border with Egypt. Israel and army radios said wanted activists of the 27-month-old Palestinian uprising sometimes used the tunnels as escape routes.

## Egypt sentences two spies

CAIRO (R) — A Cairo court sentenced a Palestinian to 15 years hard labour Monday for trying to recruit Egyptians to spy for Israel. A second man, an Egyptian who now has Israeli citizenship, was tried in absentia and also sentenced to 15 years hard labour on similar charges. The court was told Palestinian Awad Muna, 35, and Egyptian Ibrahim Meshah Al Sawarkey, 35, had worked for the Israeli intelligence service Mossad.

## Conservatives win E. German elections, ready for coalition

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — The leader of the conservative alliance that won the most votes in East Germany's election called Monday for tearing down the rest of the Berlin Wall and accelerating unification talks with West Germany.

Lothar de Maiziere, considered the top candidate for prime minister, also offered to form a broad coalition with other parties following Sunday's first-ever free balloting.

But the head of the leftist Social Democrats, which finished second, rejected a coalition with the conservative alliance.

De Maiziere's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) won almost 41 per cent of the vote, good for 164 seats in the 400-member parliament. It is allied with two other conservative parties that control another 29 seats, leaving the alliance eight seats short of a controlling majority.

The CDU is the sister party of West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats. Kohl is a leading proponent of unification. Speaking less than 24 hours after the victory, de Maiziere told reporters the Berlin Wall "must be removed as soon as possible as a clear sign of the merging of the two German states."

The wall, long a symbol of East-West animosity and East German repression, was opened Nov. 9 after East Germany's popular revolt toppled hardline Communist leaders in October. Large sections of the wall already have been removed.

De Maiziere, reading a state-

ment by the conservative alliance, said it "wanted to build a possible grand coalition."

"Therefore, we are inviting the Social Democrats and the Union of Free Democrats to coalition talks," he said. He earlier had expressed doubts about including the Social Democrats in a coalition.

The Social Democrats finished second in the voting with about 22 per cent of the vote, for 87 parliament seats. It was a pre-election favourite that called for a more deliberate approach to unification than the CDU. The Union of Free Democrats is a smaller liberal party that won 21 seats.

The former Communist Party, now called the Party of Democratic Socialism, won just over 16 per cent of the vote to finish third, controlling 65 seats.

Gregor Gysi, chairman of the reformed Communist Party, offered support to the leftist Social Democrats in an attempt to prevent the conservatives from gaining a two-third parliamentary majority.

But Ibrahim Boelme, leader of the Social Democrats, said his party decided against entering a coalition with the conservative alliance or the communists.

He said, however, the party would hold "information talks with all important political groups." He did not elaborate.

The Soviet news agency TASS said that West German interference in the East German election campaign, particularly by conservative parties, had influenced the outcome.

But TASS, in the first Soviet

commentary on the outcome of the East German elections, said Moscow wanted constructive relations with the new government and favoured further rapprochement between the two Germans.

"The results of the elections were obviously influenced by the massive interference in the election campaign of West German political parties — primarily the Christian Democratic Union and the Christian Social Union," TASS said.

"Their leaders addressed election meetings in the GDR (East Germany) and made lavish promises," it said.

Right-wing Western leaders and many newspapers hailed the conservative victory as a clarion call for a united Germany inside the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) alliance.

"It is a great day for East Germany and for Europe," said Britain's Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

A senior U.S. official travelling on Secretary of State James Baker's plane en route to Namibia said the result strengthened those who wanted a unified Germany to be part of the Western alliance.

Amid general euphoria in Western conservative circles, dissenting voices and cries for caution came from allies and supporters of East Germany's Socialists and Communists and from some neutral commentators.

Commentators said voters had been heavily influenced by West Germany and by the desire for unification.

## 2 Palestinians killed; Carter slams Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A 20-year-old Palestinian was shot and killed in a stone-throwing clash with Israeli troops Monday in the occupied Gaza Strip, and an 18-year-old died of a head wound suffered a day earlier, reports said.

The latest deaths came as visiting former U.S. President Jimmy Carter accused Israel of violating the human rights of Palestinians in the occupied territories, citing "excessive use of firearms."

Carter told reporters after a meeting with the Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the occupied territories that he was distressed by reports that Palestinians were being jailed without trial and that houses were being demolished to punish Arab families.

He also accused Israel of "excessive use of firearms by the military that are not under life-threatening situations."

The latest fatality occurred in the Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood of Gaza City, when soldiers opened fire with live ammunition to quell stone-throwing, Arab reports said.

Hospital officials identified the

victim as Osama Al Sharwish, 20, of Gaza City. They said he was hit in the chest. Meanwhile, Nafi Rafik Zakout, 18, of the Jabaliya refugee camp died in hospital Monday. He was hit in the head with a plastic bullet fired by Israeli troops during a stone-throwing clash in Gaza City a day earlier.

The army confirmed Zakour's death and said it was checking the report on Sharwish.

The deaths raised to 666 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers or civilians in the 27-month-old Palestinian uprising.

Carter said after meeting the Israeli group B'tselem that a quarter of all men in the West Bank and Gaza Strip had been imprisoned at some time during the 27-month-old Palestinian uprising.

"What we are talking about is the authoritative government that is in charge, that is depriving people under its control of their basic human rights," Carter told reporters.

Carter, who met Israeli leaders on his arrival Sunday, spent most of the day in a series of meetings with Palestinians working in politics, human rights and health

services. "In the United States, Mr. Carter is looked on as the conscience of the American people," Faisal Al Hussini, the leading Palestinian nationalist in the occupied areas, said after the former president.

Carter emphasised human rights concerns during his 1977-81 presidency and later established the Carter-Menni Human Rights Foundation.

The foundation gave its annual \$100,000 prize to B'tselem and the West Bank Palestinian human rights group Al Haq last December for its work in the occupied territories. Israeli diplomats boycotted the ceremony.

Carter, a strong advocate of human rights during his 1977-81 term as U.S. president, strongly condemned Israel's attempts to quell the uprising.

"What we are talking about is the authoritative government that is in charge, that is depriving people under its control of their basic human rights," he told reporters.

Carter said he was deeply disturbed by the statistics produced by B'tselem.



An East German border guard talks to a West German couple through a hole in the Berlin Wall near the Heinrich-Heine-Strasse crossing. The conservative victory in Sunday's East German elections has boosted chances for speedy reunification of the two Germans.

## Ultra-orthodox party boosts Peres' chances

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Leading rabbinical scholars of the small ultra-orthodox party Agudat Israel decided Monday to throw their support behind the Labour Party to form Israel's next government, giving a boost to Labour's chances.

Rabbi Avishai Shitkoener of Agudat's "Council of Torah Sages" said on army radio that the party's separate political leadership would pass along the view to President Chaim Herzog, who is responsible for choosing the man to head the next cabinet.

But Shitkoener said Shas wanted Labour leader Shimon Peres to form a "broad-based government" to replace Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud-Labour coalition that collapsed last Thursday in a parliamentary vote of no confidence.

Peres was initially expected to be Herzog's choice, but complications have arisen with growing splits and indecision in the religious camp over who to favour.

The decision by the Agudat rabbis in the Tel Aviv religious suburb of Bnei Brak came after Likud put intensive pressure on the party to drop its support for Labour, a switch that could have altered the arithmetic in Likud's favour.

Agudat Israel, a party founded as an anti-Zionist movement in Eastern Europe in the 19th century, is traditionally neutral on foreign policy. Therefore it usually backs the party that pledges

more support for religious institutions.

The Maariv newspaper noted that with Agudat Israel, Labour commanded 60 seats in the 120-member parliament compared to only 55 for Likud. It takes 61 to form the government.

Agudat Israel's decision emerged as crucial after leaders of the six-member Sephardic Shas, or "Torah Guardians," party told Herzog Sunday that Likud was their choice to form a new government.

But Shas waived Monday after spiritual leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef made a rare television appearance Sunday night and sharply criticised Shamir's Middle East policies, saying they "invited war and bloodshed upon Israel."

"How would I give an account standing in judgment before the creator, for the blood spilled, without knowing I tried to avoid it?" asked Yosef, who is also a former chief rabbi of Israel's Sephardic community, Jews of Middle East origin.

Another Shas leader, Interior Minister Aryeh Deri, indicated Monday army radio that the party's support for Likud was conditional on acceptance of proposals of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker for convening Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Likud's objections to Baker's proposals were what brought down Shamir's government last Thursday by a 60-55 vote in the 120-member parliament.

## China pledges support for Arabs

BAHRAIN (AP) — Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said Monday that Beijing would back any Arab move at the U.N. Security Council to curtail the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. "China will support the Arabs if there are consultations and a debate at the Security Council in this connection," Qian told a press conference at the conclusion of a two-day visit to Bahrain. He said Soviet Jews must not be settled in occupied Arab territories as long as there is no Arab-Israeli peace. The issue has been high on the agenda of the hosts of the Chinese minister in Bahrain, as well as in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, which he visited before coming here. Diplomats have said the Arabs are requesting the support of China, a permanent member of the Security Council, for a resolution to guarantee that the Jews do not settle in the occupied areas, while also seeking means of directing the Soviet flow to countries other than Israel. Qian, who visited Iraq earlier this month, also pledged Beijing's help in implementation of Security Council Resolution 596 to turn the August 1988 ceasefire between Iran and Iraq into a lasting peace treaty.

## King urges Gorbachev to seek Mideast peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has sent a cable of congratulation to Mikhail Gorbachev on his election as executive president of the Soviet Union.

"I was delighted to receive reports about your election and I am pleased to take this opportunity to send you warmest greetings in my name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people. I reaffirm that Jordan follows with deep interest your reform programme and your wise decisions aimed at servicing the Soviet people and all nations seeking peace and progress," the King said.

"We in Jordan appreciate your

responsible and courageous stand with regard to Arab causes in general and the Palestinian cause in particular and we look forward to receiving your continued support for all endeavours to arrive at a permanent and just peace in the Middle East region so that all efforts can be directed towards reconstruction and progress and can contribute towards the enhancement of world peace," the King added.

He wished the Soviet president continued health and happiness and further success in serving the interests of the Soviet nation.

Soviet lawmakers last Thursday elected Gorbachev as president with more political powers.

## CBJ reserves stand at \$380m

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign currency reserves at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) now stand at a total of \$380 million, down from \$500 million three months ago, according to CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi.

At the end of last year, the bank's reserves stood at \$500 million, but this amount started to decrease when Jordan started paying its foreign financial commitments with the beginning of 1990, in accordance with an agreement with the London Club. Dr. Nabulsi was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra. The agency said the CBJ governor was addressing a recent meeting of Arab finance ministers and heads of Arab financial institutions held in Abu Dhabi.

In January, Jordan agreed on debt-rescheduling terms with a steering committee of bank creditors grouped in the Jordan Club and the deal gave Jordan easier terms than those originally

agreed on in principle more than 11 weeks earlier when the Kingdom pledged to pay interest of about \$80 million due in 1989 by the end of the year, he said.

The London Club, which involves nearly 90 Arab and Western banks, agreed to let Jordan defer payment of half the total until the first quarter of 1990.

Jordan's foreign debt totalled \$8.2 billion at the end of 1988, including \$1.1 billion in undischarged loans. Before rescheduling, Jordan faced repayments of \$1.21 billion in 1989 and \$1.28 billion in 1990.

Nabulsi said in January that as a result of the agreements signed with the London Club and the Paris Club, last year, the Kingdom would be able to build foreign reserves because of the deferral part of the debt service.

However, he added, Jordan has already started paying interest on the debt and this burden would ease gradually after the year 1992.

## Israel wants peace treaty with Syria

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel Monday welcomed the idea of talks with Syria but said the goal should be an overall peace treaty rather than a proposed demilitarised zone in the Golan Heights.

Ex-U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who met Syrian President Hafez Al Assad last week, told reporters Sunday that Syria was ready for "bilateral talks with Israel, including the Golan Heights."

Israeli Labour Party leader Shimon Peres told parliament last week that he received information that the "Syrians are proposing peace negotiations, demilitarising the Golan Heights."

Syria has previously demanded return of all the territory, but the latest hints raised the possibility of a troop withdrawal as an interim solution.

Statements issued by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's caretaker government Monday stressed Israel's desire for peace talks but were cool to the idea of a limited military arrangement in the Golan Heights.

"Israel is ready to conduct direct negotiations without preconditions with any Arab country including Syria for the conclusion of a peace treaty," a foreign

ministry spokesman said.

The official who demanded anonymity said the demilitarised zone could be raised as part of talks aimed at ending the state of war which has existed since 1948.

Yossi Olmert, director of the government press office, said he was not aware of any behind-the-scenes contacts between Syria and Israel despite recent reports of such meetings.

Israel Radio quoted Shamir as saying in a letter to the Golan regional council sent before Carter's visit that Israel had no intention of giving up the Golan Heights and all reports about negotiations with the Syrians are "idle chatter."

Avraham Tamir, a retired general who negotiated the military segment of the 1979 treaty with Egypt, said in an interview Syria's reported idea of a demilitarised zone needed to be clarified.

Tamir, who is close to Peres, said Israel could agree to expanding the five-kilometre-wide no-man's land between the Israeli and Syrian armies which is patrolled by 1,400 U.N. truce keepers. He suggested it could be expanded on each side by up to 10 kilometres.

## Arab panel offers plan to break Lebanon deadlock

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — An Arab League mediation panel is proposing that Lebanese renegade General Michel Aoun evacuate the presidential palace in the Beirut suburb of Baabda in return for a pledge for his personal safety and that an Arab summit will guarantee to meet his demand that the final withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon be moved forward, informed diplomatic sources said Monday.

"This is the message taken to Beirut this time by (Arab League envoy Lakhdar) Ibrahim," said a source, speaking on condition of anonymity. According to the source, the situation in Lebanon was one of the main topics of discussion

between Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz Saturday night at the remote southeastern Saudi town of Hafr Al Baten during a short visit the Iraqi leader paid to the kingdom.

"King Fahd voiced appreciation of Iraq's strict adherence to its pledge to halt its supply of arms to Aoun," said the source. "In addition, the King also asked the Iraqi president to pressure Aoun to listen with reason to the new formula and give up the presidential palace," the source added.

The formula taken to Beirut by Ibrahim over the weekend includes a Syrian undertaking "to withdraw from certain positions facing Aoun's stronghold and to refrain from any military movement which

could be construed as hostile" to the Christian enclave where the rebel general is holed up, according to the source.

Ibrahim met with Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss and Parliament Speaker Hussein Hussein Sunday. He was scheduled to meet Aoun and Maronite Catholic Patriarch Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir Monday.

According to the source, Sfeir was to be sought to convey the details of the formula to Samir Geagea, head of the Lebanese Forces militia, which has been fighting Aoun's forces for control of the Christian enclave. "Geagea will be asked to provide a guarantee that his forces will stay put and do not threaten Aoun in any way, and thus facilitate the general's evacuation of the

palace," said the source. Fierce battles between army troops loyal to Aoun and Lebanese Forces militiamen erupted Jan. 30 and claimed over 800 lives before a threat of excommunication halted the fighting about a week ago.

One of the thorny points in the Arab League mediation formula is how anyone could guarantee Aoun's personal safety after leaving the presidential palace, the source said. "The most feasible arrangement will be to have all parties, including the Syrians, the Lebanese Forces, the Druze (militia of Progressive Socialist Party) and (Shi'ite militia leader Nabih) Berri undertake such a pledge," the source said. "The essence of the formula is a total commitment and awareness of all that

this could be the salvation for Lebanon," he added.

If Aoun agrees to the arrangement, Saudi Arabia will pledge to convene an Arab summit as soon as possible and bring about a pan-Arab guarantee that Syria will move forward its withdrawal from Lebanon, according to the source.

Aoun refuses to recognise the authority of Hrawi, who was elected president under the terms of an Arab League-sponsored peace agreement for Lebanon worked out in Taif, Saudi Arabia, late last year. The renegade general has described Hrawi as a Syrian puppet and insisted that no national reconciliation was possible in Lebanon without an early

(Continued on page 3)

## Fighting flares in E. Beirut; militias clash near Sidon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Rival forces traded mortar and gunfire in east Beirut Monday, while Shi'ite Muslim militias pounded each other with artillery and tank fire in South Lebanon, police reported.

They said one soldier of renegade General Michel Aoun's army was wounded in gumbattles with Lebanese Forces militiamen of Samir Geagea in east Beirut's Sin Al Fil residential district.

The hostilities threatened a ceasefire called March 3 to halt the bloodiest rightist power struggle since Lebanon's civil war started 15 years ago.

At least 800 people were killed and 2,116 wounded since Aoun's fight with Geagea for control of

the 800-square-kilometre enclave started Jan. 30.

Police said no casualties were reported from the fighting in South Lebanon between the Iranian-backed fundamentalist Hizbollah, and the pro-Syrian mainstream Amal militia.

A Hizbollah communique accused Amal of launching a surprise attack with tanks to recapture two strategic villages in Iqlim Al Tuftah, southeast of the port city of Sidon.

The communique said Hizbollah fighters repulsed Amal's onslaught on the villages of Kfar Hattat and Kfar Melki after heavy fighting from dusk Sunday to dawn Monday.

Ruling party to end monopoly on power

## Najibullah purges 24 from party's Central Committee

KABUL (Agencies) — Afghan President Najibullah purged 24 members from his ruling Central Committee to try to bolster his political position after the most serious attempt to topple his Soviet-backed government.

Mohammad Wali, head of Organisational Affairs Division of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), told reporters the 24 men, including sacked Defence Minister Shahbaz Tanai, the comp leader, were expelled during a meeting of the Central Committee Sunday.

They were accused of treason and many were already in prison, he said.

Two other generals and a former Kabul police commander were among those purged from the 141-member body during its first meeting since November, Wali said.

Tanai and air force chief, General Sayed Aka, are still at large following the abortive coup on March 6.

Wali said Najibullah addressed the meeting but declined to report what he said.

Najibullah, whose presidential palace in Kabul was the main target of a 20-hour attack by rebel air force pilots last week, has promoted 52 officers to the rank of general in an effort to create a loyal military leadership.

Trial for 127 people arrested after an abortive coup attempt in December were just beginning when Tanai launched his bid for power.

Tanai was suspected of involvement in several previous attempts to overthrow Najibullah. Diplomats in Kabul say evidence from the trials may have implicated him in the December plot, triggering this month's purge.

Diplomats say Tanai's Khalqi faction in the PDPA, which is dominant in the armed forces, also has backing in rural areas. Najibullah's Parcham wing is more urban based.

The Afghan government has accused Tanai of conspiring with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the most radical of the Afghan guerrilla leaders, and with Pakistan's military intelligence.

Pakistan, which with the United States is the main backer of the Mujahideen guerrillas, has denied any involvement.

Tanai was last seen by reporters in a cave hideout in Logar province, about 50 kilometres south of Kabul.

In a televised address to Mujahideen field commanders this week, Najibullah tried to paint Hekmatyar as their worst enemy and said Tanai had joined forces with him.

"Gulbuddin and his treacherous group intend to weaken our opposition groupings and make himself champion of the race," the official Bakhtar News Agency quoted the president as telling guerrillas who are nominally allied with Hekmatyar in a Pakistan-based Afghan opposition.

"With my Islamic and Afghan voice I say loudly, 'resist with all your might against them. Topple the national traitors and killers of your sons.'"

Tanai has failed to win support from the other six guerrilla groups based in Pakistan.

Najibullah, attempting to exploit tribal and political differences plaguing the opposition Islamic rebels, said in his speech that men of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami had attacked and killed other Mujahideen recently in six Afghan provinces.

Najibullah called Sunday for Afghanistan's ruling party to give up its monopoly on power, Bakhtar reported.

In the speech to the Central Committee, Najibullah proposed convening a grand assembly of government and social leaders to change the constitution, Bakhtar reported.

The committee also debated a name change for the PDPA. One choice, favoured by the liberal wing, was the National Unity Party, according to Bakhtar.

However, the measures as announced contained no specific provisions for ending the party's control over the government.

Sunday's announcements appeared intended to show a movement toward democratic reform.

"The party should take voluntary legal steps to cancel its privileged status," Najibullah said in his speech, Bakhtar reported.

"We must give up our monopoly on power."

Government officials said Najibullah almost was toppled in the March 6 coup attempt, in which renegade air force pilots bombed the capital, including the presidential palace.

Diplomats in Kabul have said the coup attempt weakened Najibullah. A high-ranking government official said on condition of not being identified Sunday that many military officers were being replaced, and that the escape of Tanai compromised national security.

In his speech, Najibullah called for a grand assembly, or loya jirga, to modify references in Afghanistan's constitution to the "guiding role" of the ruling party.

"In spite of all our success, war still continues and the people still suffer," he said, according to Bakhtar. "But we have taken steps toward giving up the monopoly on power. Recently we've been going slowly. We need to accelerate the trend toward democracy in our society."

The grand assembly will be held within two months, a government official said. It will include representatives of the government, the mostly rubber-stamp legislature and important tribes around the country.

Najibullah also said a ruling party congress would convene to revise the party's charter, removing references to its Marxist past.

Free enterprise flourishes in Kabul and the government has lately started permitting state-owned enterprises.

But diplomats cautioned against making parallels between Afghanistan and the formerly orthodox socialist countries of East Europe that have undergone democratic reforms.

"Moscow doesn't deal with Kabul the way it does with Budapest," one diplomat said in reference to the Soviet Union's general support of political change in Eastern Europe.

"Afghanistan is more like a colony."

Afghan government officials said high-ranking Soviet diplomats attended the Central Committee meeting.

## Ethiopia announces plans for multiparty system

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam has announced plans for a multiparty system as part of

major reforms aimed at dropping Marxism and allowing private enterprise in the economy, diplomatic sources said Monday.

They said Mengistu announced the plan to visiting Canadian Aid and Development Minister Monique Landry during a two-hour meeting Saturday. Details have not been made public.

A communique issued by the official Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) Monday appeared to confirm Mengistu's reported decision to create a multiparty system in addition to reorganising the ruling Workers' Party of Ethiopia (WPE) as a broad-based and non-ideological national party.

Referring to a resolution of the WPE's Central Committee adopting the reforms proposed by Mengistu on March 5, ENA said "There is nothing in the relevant item of the resolution of the plenum which states that opposition groups are required to join or work under the WPE, which in accordance with another item of the resolution, is to be reconstituted under a new name."

One person who attended Mengistu's meeting with Landry said the Ethiopian government did not spell out any timetable for introducing a multiparty system or holding fresh elections.

"Mengistu did not say when or how it will be introduced. But he said it would be a multiparty system," he added.

Since Mengistu announced the WPE has abandoned Soviet-style Marxism-Leninism, prominent symbols of the party's discredited ideology have begun to disappear from the streets of the capital Addis Ababa.

First to go was a poster displaying the faces of Marx, Engels and Lenin in Revolution Square, the site of mass rallies and military parades.

The political changes announced in Ethiopia coincide with similar reforms in Eastern Europe and recent setbacks in Addis Ababa's war against rebel groups in the north of the country.

Peace talks between the government and one of the main rebel groups, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) resume in Rome Tuesday.

But a poster of Mengistu leading enthusiastic workers and peasants under a red banner and the Ethiopian flag continues to dominate the square.

Elsewhere, discreet groups of workmen have been going round by night, painting out banners and slogans, and socialist slogans on garishly painted banners and displays, spanning the streets of the capital.

Students have splashed green paint over a bust of Karl Marx outside Addis Ababa University and painted a black "X" on the plinth underneath.

There is lively speculation over when the statue of Lenin outside the headquarters of the Organisation of African Unity will be quietly removed.

One common joke around Addis Ababa is that the striding figure of Lenin, nicknamed "Johnny Walker" after the popular brand of whisky, is already facing towards the airport.

Ethiopia has never had a multiparty democracy. After Emperor Haile Selassie was overthrown in the 1974 revolution, the country was taken over by radical military officers.

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## Crown Prince marks birthday

AMMAN (Petra) — Tuesday March 20, marks the 43rd birthday of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Born in Amman in 1947, Prince Hassan is the youngest brother of His Majesty King Hussein and heir to the throne. He played an active role in the development process in Jordan and focused his efforts on pursuing development by encouraging public participation in the decision-making process.

Prince Hassan has contributed to the institution building process and to creating the framework which serves development efforts.

The Palestine question has always been on top of his agenda and for this reason, he has studied many topics involving the Palestinian question.



HRH Crown Prince Hassan

Prince Hassan was behind the formation of the Arab Thought Forum, and is the chairman of its board of trustees, and the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research. He also co-chairs with Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Rights, which was established in 1983.

Visit to army unit

Crown Prince Hassan Monday visited the Third Royal Armoured Division where he was briefed on its duties.

## Abanda explains snowing tree 'mystery'

AMMAN (J.T.) — The mystery of a tree that shed snow in Amman at temperatures estimated at 13 degrees Centigrade in the past few days has finally been solved.

Department of Meteorology Director Ali Abanda said the tree which he had visited Sunday was located close to a building whose water tanks leaked spraying a lot of water on the tree.

Abanda, who inspected the surroundings of the tree, located on Jabal Lawaidbeh, said that high cold winds which caused temperatures to drop at night near 0 degree Centigrade helped to accumulate a good amount of ice and frozen drops on the tree, which finally fell on to the ground causing amazement to passersby.

Describing the formation of ice as a natural phenomenon, Abanda said that nothing of this sort could have happened on other days without the low temperatures and the strong north easterly cold wind.

He said the cold temperature during the night caused the formation of between 40 to 50 litres of snow and ice on the tree branches.

He said because the tree is in a shaded area, did not receive any sun until later in the day which explains the continued snowfall during the morning hours. He said other trees in the area did not have a similar occurrence because they were all far off from the water source.

Groups of people, who milled around the tree Sunday, called Jordan Television which telecast the phenomenon to the public, and satellite stations carried the news to the outside world.

## 'In absence of centre parties, leftists, Islamists will prevail'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Saleman Arar said in a lecture at the University of Jordan Sunday the projected national charter, expected to be formulated in the coming few months, was bound to open the way for the formation of political groups and parties in the Kingdom.

"I believe the opportunity will exist for a great number of parties to emerge and a good opportunity will present itself for these parties to regroup," Arar said. The main parties will be Islamic, Leftist and Centrist in colour, Arar said in the lecture, delivered Sunday evening.

He said that the centrist political groups remain in disarray as they are now, only the leftist and the Islamist groups will have the

chance to emerge as political forces in the country.

Last November's parliamentary elections, Arar said, were held in a free and democratic atmosphere but that the electorate made its choice based on tribal and private considerations not on political grounds.

In future elections, people will clearly base their choice on political grounds, and demand that their representatives in Parliament respond effectively to the main problems facing the country, including unemployment and the high cost of living, Arar said. "It is natural to hear people talking about soaring prices and unemployment and also discussing such issues as Jewish migration and ways to help the uprisings of the Palestinian people," the

House speaker said. "But solutions for such problems should come from top politicians who would be elected to Parliament and who could also be cabinet members," he added.

Arar said that the university professors, scholars, Parliament members as well as intellectuals and journalists should voice their opinion and propose solutions.

Arar said that Israel had decided to change all its ambassadors to Eastern Bloc countries in the light of developments in that area, a procedure which the Arab countries should follow since "dealings will not be conducted from now on with a one-man regime but rather with a multi-party democratic regime with different views and different orientations."

## Sierra Leone leader sends message to King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, received Monday at the Royal Court Sierra Leone Vice-President Salgado Sharif, who conveyed a message from the Sierra Leone president to His Majesty King Hussein on relations between the two countries.

Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi Monday met Sharif, who arrived in Amman earlier in the day.

Lawzi told the Sierra Leone official that Jordan had always sought cooperation with Sierra Leone and all other African states.

Lawzi briefed the guest on Israel's intransigence and continued denial of the rights of the Palestinian people, its refusal to respond to international calls for finding a just and comprehensive peace settlement and explain the dangers inherent in Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe to the occupied Arab lands.

Sharif lauded King Hussein's efforts in the Arab and international arenas. "Sierra Leone shares the same views with the Arab states about the Palestinian hardships and deems it necessary to find a peaceful settlement to the Middle East problem."

## Preparations under way for Ramadan market

By Hana Darwazah  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With the holy month of Ramadan only two weeks away, preparations are underway for holding the fourth Charity Market which promises to provide entertainment for Jordanians from all walks of life and collect funds for a good cause.

According to Ahmad Abu Faris, public relations director of Charitable Piaster Fund, the market will offer a variety of goods, ranging from clothes to food, at lower prices than those offered for the same goods at regular shops.

"There will be a reduction of 10 to 20 per cent, sometimes even 40 per cent, on all the goods being sold at the market," he said.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Abu Faris maintained "the lower prices will provide an added incentive for the public during these hard times."

A 25 dunum piece of land in Jabal Al Hussein will be used to erect about 140 wooden shops by private sector merchants and the Charitable Piaster Fund will only collect the rent which has been set at JD 120 for a 3x3 metre kiosk, plus JD 10 for utilities.

The rent money will go to a special fund established by the

General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) which aims to help the disadvantaged in the country.

"The fund provides income to support the activities of the executive committee of the market and to societies which help the poor and handicapped," Abu Faris said.

One of the most important services the fund offers is financial aid to needy university students. The fund provides students with loans so they can cover their university fees for the duration of their study.

"We provide as much as JD 1,600 to students over the four years which covers university fees and provides a little spending money as well," Abu Faris said.

Handicapped students who benefit from this fund are exempt from repaying the loan.

To further highlight the concept of "Ramadan nights," the market will provide entertainment for children, a video arcade and live folkloric shows on the Jabal Al Hussein site, near the Ministry of Interior Circle.

The market's location is expected to attract a larger number of visitors "since it is accessible by public transport and there will be enough parking space for everyone," Abu Faris said.

## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

### Prince Mohammad meets with Qasem

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Monday called at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and had a brief meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

### Energy minister to hold talks in Cairo

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation led by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher left for Cairo Monday to meet with Egyptian ministers on joint Jordanian-Egyptian energy, electricity and mineral resources projects. An announcement here said that Taher will meet with Minister of Electricity Maher Abaza to discuss a project for linking the national grids of Jordan and Egypt.

### Irbid refugee services reviewed

IRBID (Petra) — A committee entrusted with improving conditions in Irbid refugee camp had a meeting here Monday with Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, director of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestine Affairs. Qatanani said the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) was responsible for medical services to refugee camp residents while the National Aid Fund of the Ministry of Social Development can and should provide assistance to needy families and the Ministry of Youth was responsible for youth programmes. Qatanani heard residents' requests including demands for water and health services.

### Apple computer exhibition opens

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein Monday opened the third annual exhibition of Apple computers at the Marriott Hotel. Taking part in the three-day exhibition are a number of local and international specialised companies. Three lectures by specialists will be delivered at the exhibition, which exhibits the latest Apple technologies. A large number of officials and those interested in the computer science attended the opening ceremony. The exhibition is open daily to the public from 10:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m., and from 4:00 p.m. until 9:00 a.m.

## Arab panel offers plan

(Continued from page 1)

time-table for total Syrian withdrawal from the country.

The source said a recent statement by Aoun that he was willing to discuss a solution to the Lebanese conflict based on elements contained in the Taif agreement "is the result of the general's realisation that Iraq was serious in halting the flow of arms to him."

Under the Taif agreement, Syria would have had withdrawn the bulk of its estimated 35,000 troops in Lebanon in two years, with the rest leaving after a firm settlement was in place. But, Aoun rejected this and demanded that the deadline for the departure of all Syrian troops be brought forward.

There was no immediate indication of how Syria viewed the formula, but recent statements from Damascus have indicated that it is willing to cooperate with any effort

aimed at a Lebanese settlement which ensures the implementation of the basic principles contained in the Taif agreement. These include a power-sharing arrangement between Muslims and Christians and acceptance by all of the authority of the central government.

The new formula was worked out by a three-member committee comprising Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco which were mandated by an Arab League summit last year to achieve a total and comprehensive solution to the 15-year-old Lebanese civil strife. "The committee has welcomed the shift in Aoun's position and has worked out the formula, keeping in mind that he has adopted a conciliatory stand after months of stalling," according to the source. "Final details are open to negotiations. The most important thing is to get the thing off the ground."

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of plastic artists Arij Al Hamad and Ibrahim Al Nababneh at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ Art exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdul Hameed Shoaman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition of watercolours by Jordanian artist Shaker Al Jarani at Alla Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "Spanish contemporary engravings" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### THEATRE

- ★ Arabic puppet play entitled "Fables from my Grandmother's Chest" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

### CONCERT

- ★ Arab music concert by Al Nagham Al Arabi at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

### DIALOGUE

- ★ Dialogue, in Arabic, with Arab-American author and poet, Gregory Orfalia, on the works of Khalil Gibran at the American Centre — 6:00 p.m.

### LECTURE

- ★ Lecture, in Arabic, by Dr. George Attiyeh, head of the Middle East section of the United States Library of Congress, on "Arab and Muslim Heritage in the U.S." at the Yarmouk University Library (11:00 a.m.) and at Abdul Hameed Shoaman Foundation (6:00 p.m.)

## ANNOUNCING



The Spring Exhibition  
of  
Bani Hamida  
Women's Weaving Project

Friday, March 23 to Thursday, March 29, 1990  
8 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
at the Bani Hamida House

Jabal Amman, Rainbow Street  
Tel: 658696/7

A Save the Children Project

# Don't Forget Mother's Day



Show how much you care and allow your favourite member of the family to enjoy her day with the Marriott's special Mother's Day lunch and dinner.

Don't forget, it's the first day of Spring, when the flowers bloom and nature starts to sing...and you should be celebrating

with your mother at the Marriott!

Al Mansaf lunch buffet: JD 8

per person

Al Wallma special dinner menu:

JD 15 per

person including a glass of wine.

For more information call 660100

AMMAN  
**Marriott**  
HOTEL

## INVITATION TO JAPANESE FILM NIGHT

EMBASSY OF JAPAN IN JORDAN  
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO THE JAPANESE FILM SHOW.

Date: Wednesday, March 21, 1990  
Time: 7:00 p.m. (You are cordially requested to arrive at the theatre by 6:45 p.m.)

Place: RAINBOW CINEMA  
Jabal Amman, 1st Circle

Film to be shown:

[TORA-SAN'S FORBIDDEN LOVE]

— Colour

— Running time: 107 mins.

NOTE: Film is subtitled in Arabic  
Admission free (no ticket issued).

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.  
Established 1975

الزمان تيمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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# Sharia between polemics and politics

By Dr. Ahmad Al Raba'i

WE HAVE to make the difference clear between the call for the application of Islamic law and the employment of this slogan in the daily political struggle against an existing regime. That is to say one has to differentiate between a form of 'instigation' exercised by certain religious political forces involved in and concerned with political struggle, and the application of this slogan in real life. Should the political Islamic forces take power in a country then, I believe, a real crisis would emerge in the course of applying Islamic law.

Other political forces have gone through this experiment before. Certain socialist forces took over control of a country, but failed simply because they lacked a defined socialist programme. Liberal forces have also reached power only to fail due to the lack of a liberal programme. Difference in views between a political Islamic force and a nationalist progressive force does not lie in rejecting or accepting the concept of applying Islamic law. One has to ask: What is Islamic law? What does this term mean? What are the tools required for applying it? What is the nature of the political regime that will apply such law?

Perhaps the major blunder in proposing the slogan of applying Islamic law lies in the fact that it is being demanded under the umbrella of regimes considered spiritually and temporally illegitimate. What happened in past instances? These regimes exploited the slogan and began applying Islamic law in their own style, as happened under the Numeiri regime in Sudan and Zia Ul Haq in Pakistan. Indeed many forces followed a similar course, including those who established imaginary Islamic companies and cheated people in the name of Islamic law.

Political Islamic forces have a defined concept of advancing the nation, and so do the nationalist progressive forces. This simply means that both sides ought to reach consensus on a common denominator and on ways of steering the nation safely out of its backwardness and dependency on others. The most important thing is to realise that the application of

Islamic law does not mean that ready-made solutions pertaining to Islam are available and can deal with modern-life problems in politics, economy, social life and international relations. We have to realise that the holy Koran and the Sunna (teachings of the Prophet) remain the basic sources for Islamic law. They provide comprehensive guidelines and therefore details and applications are left to the human mind in each different period of time.

The Koran proposed two concepts concerning politics: Shoura consultation and justice. But the Koran has also left the question of applying these two concepts for the human mind. Muslims have come to grips with this question as a first experiment in this regard

following the Prophet's death when they had to elect a caliph (commander of the faithful) and find a way to elect him this also applied to the caliph's successors. The result was that Muslims elected the first four caliphs in four different ways. Some Islamists try to deal with economy in Islam in a manner that indeed requires some consideration. They believe that the mere presence of financial institutions that do not accept or deal with usury or interest makes an Islamic economy exist. Such institutions came into being as a solution for a negative problem — usury — but can by no means provide solutions for economic problems which require brainwork. Some Islamists talk about penalties as one facet of

applying Islamic law; but they forget that they are totally different in nature. The application of penalties without control and under repressive regimes should be considered as unjust and unfair; and could lead to serious consequences. In short, the problem lies not in the presence of nationalist progressive forces which refuse to apply Islamic law and the political Islamic forces which advocate this law. The problem is bigger. Real solutions require joint efforts in legislation that can take into account modern-age developments and changes. They also require greater and deeper study of Islamic law and its limitations — translated from Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

## Where to draw the line

IT WAS not an easy decision for the Lower House of Parliament to vote Sunday on whether or not to debate the Kingdom's economic and fiscal woes and past official corruption in an open session for the rest of the country to watch and hear. Clearly, there are valid arguments for and against secrecy in debating sensitive issues that have affected each and every Jordanian in one way or another. To discuss such grave sensitive issues away from the public eye would not be different from ignoring a war effort that went sour without the participation or the knowledge of the people.

Yet the corruption issue is indeed delicate and our parliamentarians are still novice in parliamentary debates and lack enough experience in handling subjects of this magnitude. There will always be fears that some of them might get carried away with their emotions or prejudices, and the end result could very well be an acrimonious debate that is not likely to lead to anything fruitful. This does not mean that there will not come a point when even the secret parliamentary deliberations and findings will have to be made public. No useful purpose can be achieved by debating the issue of corruption totally in the dark since this could give rise to fears and suspicions that a cover-up is being contemplated or that a "deal" is in the making. But, having decided to deal with the issue in "secrecy", the House would be well-advised to hasten to release its findings as soon as possible to satisfy the hunger of the people for the truth. If the House appears to have opted to brush under the carpet all the past wrongdoings, the deputies will have their constituencies to answer to when they are due for reelection.

Another pitfall for Sunday's session was to treat the corruption issue and the country's debt and economic problems as one and the same. It is one thing to deal with 12 or 15 cases of official corruption in secret and quite another to treat the genesis of Jordan's economic and fiscal woes in also the same way. There is no lawful reason or reasonable justification to lump together the two subjects, albeit both have led to the same gigantic economic losses to the country. It would have been much wiser to separate the two subjects in such a way as to allow the deliberation of the economic and fiscal dimensions of the House Finance Committee's report in an open session. Corruption is one thing and wrong decisions made in good faith are another. The first involves a criminal act, while the latter is a mere error of judgement that does not constitute a criminal offence. Had the House decided to have preliminary secret meetings to be followed by open deliberations, it would have been able to distinguish one subject from the other.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily Monday discussed statements in Amman by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter who is in a tour of the Middle East, referring in particular to his defence of the U.S. administration's policy regarding the Middle East conflict. His defence of the American government, said the paper, has not and will not help regain credibility for the United States, simply because the Arabs are full of doubts about Washington's moves and they realise that it is totally biased towards Israel with which it has formed a strong strategic alliance. The paper said that United States is really responsible for the sufferings of the Palestinian people and for all the delays in holding an international conference to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Indeed, the United States is responsible not only for lack of peace in our region but also for further sufferings by Palestinians and Arabs, because it continues to support Israel's settlement policies and continues to provide the Jewish state with the means to perpetuate its occupation of Arab land, the paper continued. Nothing will therefore convince the Arabs that the United States is making a serious effort to establish peace; and nothing can persuade the Arab countries to view Israel's moves in total independence from American policies, the paper added. Al Ra'i said that it is difficult to accept Carter's defence of the American role about which many U.S. officials have been dwelling over the past two decades. Yet, the paper said one has to realise that divisions within the Arab World and the lack of unity of ranks among the Arab states involved in the conflict can only encourage the United States to pursue these policies and thwart all moves towards peace.

Writing in Al Ra'i daily columnist Tareq Masarweh criticises the military regime in Sudan for sentencing the former president of the Sudanese Medical Association to death for calling for a strike. The writer says it is unbelievable that such thing can happen to a noted doctor simply for his call for a strike. We in Jordan feel that our rights and freedoms are violated if those rights are denied to our people in Sudan, the country which we love and whose problems we understand, says the writer. The regime in Sudan should hear voices from Jordan denouncing the present policy of sentencing people to death for raising their voices demanding democracy and freedom, the writer adds. The time has gone when the Arab citizens remained silent or impassive to acts of repression being practiced under the slogan of revolution, he stresses. What the Arab criticism in Sudan and other parts of the Arab World are demanding now is democracy and freedom because they are their rights of which no military adventurers can deprive them off, the writer asserts. He calls on the regime in Sudan to release all those people demanding freedom of thought and expression.

Al Dustour daily commented on Prime Minister Mudar Badran's statement in Sanaa about the Jewish immigration into Palestine. The prime minister has described the Jewish immigration as a third tragedy for the Arabs in this century no less serious than the occupation of Palestine, the paper noted. It said that the influx of Jews into Palestine is bound to encourage the Zionists to launch new invasions and new adventures to occupy more land in the Arab World. The prime minister has drawn the Arab Nation's attention to the dangers inherent in the Jewish immigration, and pledged that Jordan will continue the efforts to mobilise all resources in the Arab World to deal with the new danger, the paper added. It said that regardless of Jordan's limited means and resources, the country will maintain its efforts to expose Israel's plans and thwart all attempts directed against the Arab Nation.

## Oil: Base of Iraq's economic future

By John T. Haldane

DESPITE its present financial difficulties, Iraq's long-term economic future seems bright. It has now become the second largest OPEC producer after Saudi Arabia and is sitting on a sea of oil. Some experts predict that it may eventually discover reserves larger than those found anywhere else in the Middle East outside Saudi Arabia. Importantly, most of the country's oil is located in huge fields, which means that the cost of recovery will be considerably less than in nations with a number of scattered small fields. The sheer volume of its oil reserves will permit Iraq to produce oil long after fields in many OPEC and other countries have run dry or become economically unfeasible to develop.

The Iraqi government has made significant progress in the last few years in pushing the development of new oil fields, constructing oil pipelines across Saudi Arabia and, since the cease-fire, in rebuilding Gulf ports and offshore terminals damaged during the war with Iran. The Iraqi State Company for Oil Projects plans to carry out 23 projects in 1990-92, at a cost of \$5 billion, according to the Baghdad Observer. Al Al Nuri, director-general of the company, states that a major effort is being directed towards expanding oil export facilities on the Gulf coast for crude oil, petroleum products and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

### The pace of exploration

Unlike Iran, which allowed much of its oil sector to run down during the war, Iraq continued to develop new fields and upgrade existing ones. Exploration for new oil structures and fields continues at a steady pace, with seismic parties surveying thousands of miles each year. Sixty exploratory and development wells were drilled last year, with an even larger number planned for 1990. By the end of this year, at least five new oil fields are scheduled to come on stream. Additional field work is planned during the next five years, including the promising North Rumaila field, which could add an estimated 300,000 barrels per day to Iraq's output capacity.

The Iraqi minister of oil, Issam Al Shalabi, announced recently that Iraq has 100 billion barrels of proven reserves and at least 50 billion more barrels of probable reserves. While these estimates seem high to some oil experts, figures published by the International Energy Agency support Shalabi's projection.

The oil minister also said that oil export capacity will reach an estimated 6 million bpd by the end of 1990. He broke this total down by indicating a 1.6 million bpd capacity through two pipelines running through Turkey. 1.65 million bpd through the IPSA-2 pipeline across Saudi Arabia, 2 million bpd from the Mina Al Bakr offshore Gulf terminal and additional capacity from other Gulf terminals under construction.

In addition to its vast oil supplies, Iraq has an estimated 30 billion cubic feet of gas reserves. A nationwide grid is being commissioned by the government to supply gas to power stations for domestic electricity use and for export to Kuwait and Jordan. Baghdad plans to increase the internal use of dry gas and LPG in order to free additional crude oil for export. In addition to meeting domestic needs, Iraq plans to export up to 4 million tonnes of LPG annually beginning in 1991.

### Debt obligations

The Iraqi government hopes that the current trend towards higher oil prices caused by rising demand among consumer countries will continue and thus permit the servicing of foreign debt and financing of critical development objectives. The Iran-Iraq war left Iraq with massive debt obligations which both consume much of the country's foreign exchange earnings and frustrate its efforts to attract new credit for reconstruction and economic development. It is estimated that Iraq owes various OECD, East European and other non-Arab creditor countries over \$30 billion, while as much \$8 billion of an estimated \$30 billion received from Arab sources during the war was lent on terms requiring payment. Nevertheless, Baghdad is banking on a sufficient return from current development investments to permit it slowly to retire its debt and return to the pre-war practice of dealing with foreign suppliers on a cash basis.

Despite its obvious need for large infusions of foreign currency, the Iraqi government shows no signs of wanting to damage the recent recovery in oil prices by pushing oil sales too aggressively. Shalabi states his country will abide by its OPEC quota. It can be expected that Iraq will continue this policy in the short term as long as world prices hold steady.

John T. Haldane served as foreign service officer in Baghdad, 1957-60. His article is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International magazine.

## Long-cherished freedom for last colony in Africa

By Heidi von Egidy  
The Associated Press

WINDHOEK, Namibia — Less than a year after Namibia was ablaze with a war and seemingly insurmountable ethnic differences, the South African-controlled territory is ready for a peaceful transition to independence on March 21.

The diverse people of this vast, arid land have set aside their weapons and have begun working together to transform Africa's last colony into one of the continent's free democracies.

"We confounded the doubters," said Sam Nujoma, the territory's designated president, who led the South-West Africa People's Organisation during its 23-year guerrilla war against South African rule.

Black nationalist guerrillas and right-wing whites who once fought each other have been preaching reconciliation in what has been a remarkably smooth run-up to independence in the territory, formerly known as South-West Africa.

"We have accepted that South-West Africa as we knew it will be replaced by an independent Namibia," said Jan de Wet, leader of the right-wing National Party. "We are glad to offer our skills and resources to this country if we are welcome."

SWAPO often was depicted by whites as a "Marxist-terrorist" organisation during the war. But since winning United Nations-supervised elections in November, the leftist organisation has since made numerous compromises in an attempt to accommodate the 11 distinct ethnic groups

that make up Namibia's 1.3 million people.

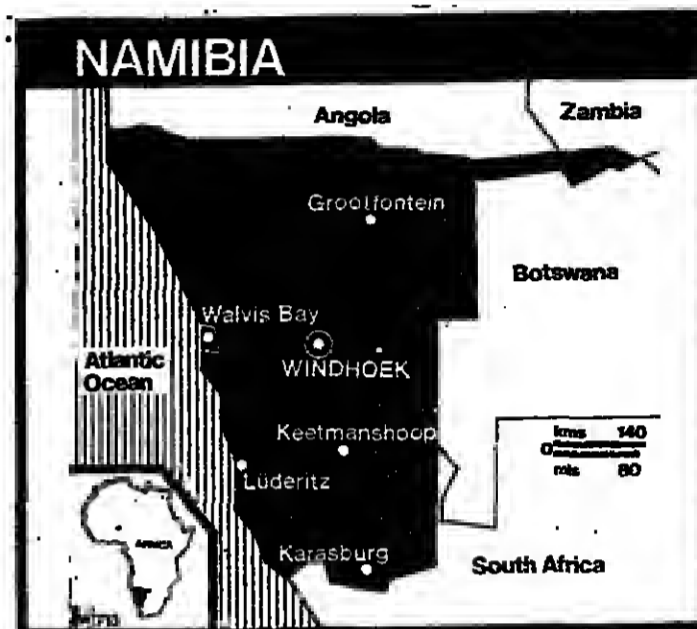
SWAPO's support comes predominantly from the northern Ovambo tribe, but Nujoma also has named blacks who are not Ovambos to key positions to allay fears that SWAPO will be a tribal-based government. He also has appointed whites and businessmen from opposition parties to his cabinet.

"The future government wants to ensure that... policies and laws will be supported by the widest possible cross-section of the population," said Otto Herrigel, a German-descended Namibian who will serve as Nujoma's finance secretary.

Opposition groups also have been in a conciliatory mood. The seven parties who won seats in the elections have sharp ideological differences. But within weeks the 72-member constitutional assembly unanimously agreed on a democratic constitution that guarantees fundamental rights and regular elections. It also limits the president to two five-year terms, a rarity on a continent where most leaders serve for life.

SWAPO, which was committed to socialism while in exile, now speaks more often of working with the white business community that controls the mining, farming and fishing industries. Those industries, along with South African aid, have made Namibia one of the few African countries to achieve an annual per capita income of \$1,000.

However, the country's wealth is disproportionately in the hands of the 75,000 whites, who make up only 6 per cent of the population, and South African aid is ending. Meeting black expectations without alienating whites will be one of the biggest challenges facing the SWAPO government. There have been no signs of a mass exodus by whites, who easily could go to white-ruled South Africa as thousands did when the United Nations announced Namibia's independence plan in 1978. The U.N. plan sat on the shelf for a decade as South Africa refused to relinquish control of the territory, which it captured from Germany during World War I. But in December 1988, South Africa agreed to grant independence to Namibia under a regional peace treaty that also calls for Cuba to withdraw its 50,000 soldiers from Angola by mid-1991. More than 31,000 Cuban troops have left on schedule, although the heavy fighting continues between the Angola government forces and the guerrilla of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). At the ceremony when the new Namibian constitution was adopted in November, several



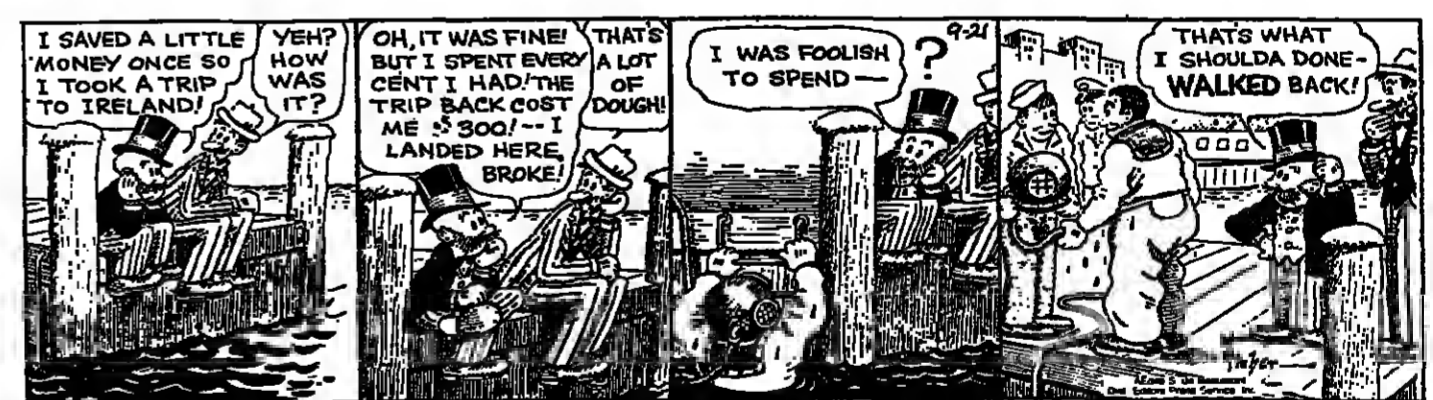
speakers said South Africa should take inspiration from Namibia's harmonious independence process.

Many South Africans were relieved at the Western-style democratic constitution adopted by a constituent assembly in Namibia. But others said they would withhold judgment, since neighbouring Zimbabwe also began its black majority rule with a democracy and British-inspired constitution. Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe is now in the process of turning the government into a one-party state.

The long-delayed U.N. independence plan in Namibia almost collapsed the day it began — last April 1. Hundreds of SWAPO guerrillas crossed into northern Namibia in violation of the U.S. plan, igniting three weeks of fighting that resulted in the deaths of more than 300 guerrillas and 27 members of the South African-led security forces.

Since peace was restored there have been sporadic instances of violence, such as the assassination last September of Anton Lubowski, SWAPO's highest-ranking white member.

## Mutt'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp



## Peanuts



## LETTERS

### Good news to hear

To the Editor:

I WAS very happy to hear that the Jordan Academy of music was founded, and I was even happier when I learned that music classes started two days later. Musical conscious is developing rapidly in our country. Education changes everyone and so does music which is part of any civilised person's education.

I believe that learning music is much more than just playing an instrument and producing beautiful rhythmic sounds. It's being sensitive and being able to understand people with different personalities and moods. Learning music charts a whole new life for the one who is dedicated to it.

Arabs were the first to care about various types of music and to accept and improve some types of musical instruments. I am always astonished at the magnificence and perfection of symphonies. I can't deny that I envy nations that are proud of their composers like Beethoven, Bach, Strauss, Gershwin or any other composer.

The founding of the Jordan Academy of Music is giving great hope that very soon we'll have composers and even a symphony orchestra which will bring Jordan all the attention and glory for the quick steps taken in the last few years in the field of music. The journey which was started by a foundation like the Queen Noor Foundation will now be accompanied by another ambitious and dedicated one, The Jordan Academy of Music.

Suleima Kayyali  
Amman.

# A unique glimpse of Spanish graphics

By Nelly Lama  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An exhibition of graphic works by major contemporary artists from Spain is being held at the Royal Cultural Centre. It is organised by the Spanish Institute for Cooperation with the Arab World, which works under the aegis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain.

Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Ramon Armengod, a former vice-president of the institute, reminded us that the last exhibition that Spain held in Jordan was "Epochs of Arab Art in Spain," and in the late 70s it helped the restoration of the building of Qasr Amra.

Spanish art has come a long way from its heavy tradition but artists have retained the same passion and the same earthiness of the great masters — Velasquez, Ribera, Zurbarán, Goya — painters who painted the life of kings, the passions of faith and nationalism. This same Spain was, for a while, muted and alienated from the world, a period of vacuum during which artists reclined on academic figurative work that the rest of Europe had long dropped, having gone way into abstraction. Once rid of its alienation, and freed of its bonds, Spain burst into art. Groups of artists were forming, exchanging ideas, philosophies, reaching out to the rest of the country, glorifying abstraction, the contemporary touch, and above all "personal expression."

They began by expressing an aggressive desire made of symbols and dreams that naturally led to a surge of surrealism. There was, however, a unanimous rejection of academism and an entry into diverse trends. In 1951, the official policy towards art changed. They accepted innovative art especially for international exhibitions.

That was when art groups thrived and were vital for the modernisation of Spain. At the International University of Santander, for example, one could find the Saragossa group meeting with the Canary Islands group or the Grupo Espacio de Cordova that dealt with geometrical constructivism. Artists dropped the fascist love of monumentality for the humble and the meek world of the peasant. They launched themselves into informal art, the art of the street. That is when Antoni Tapies appeared. He employed dull opaque materials with great thickness which he called matter painting, building up large surfaces with combinations of paint, varnishes, sand and powdered marble to create an effect of solid relief. He painted in somber tones and a matt tonality. His subject matter is humbly presented with an imposing simplicity and a monumental demeanor. He wanted to create rough textured organic works. He had an enormous impact on the youth of Spain in the "Asociación de Artistas" in Barcelona.

His works in this exhibition are done in acid etching with relief, and aquatint where the mordant acid bites both lines and total areas in the copper plate. An aquatint print resembles a watercolour in its tonal effects. Tapies, of course, uses these effects to recreate his "matter paintings."

Hernandez Pijuan gave a tragic version of informalism. Whatever his works seem to represent, and even when abstract, his forms are almost always rendered in black and white and are reminiscent of fearful crucifixions in the violence and pain that they evoke.

Alberto Rafala Casamada left his Villon-like post cubism for a very sober harmonious informal style. His exhibited works show this transition. The textured areas rendered in aquatint are outlined with etched lines. On them are juxtaposed areas of cross-hatching and liberal doodling.

Josep Calvoart gave up his neo-realist social painting for an information of the material and of colour and a powerful high relief. Here he exhibits

hand-coloured lithographs where wet forms of varied colour intensities float upwards making all sorts of textures. Fine linear thrusts slash through creating new space.

Rafael Canogar belonged to the Madrid-based El Paso group (1957-1960) that caused a decisive change in the mentality of Spanish youth. His paintings had thick impasto and severe colours, black, brown and gray. His graphics retain the spirited hatched lines, superimposed over figurative textures. Human passions, blatant sexuality, are emphasised by off balance points and asymmetry.

Antonio Saura, one of the most renowned Spanish artists, left his adolescent surrealism where he was seen as a dreamer like Matta, and found his idiom in the most passionate and stormy "tachist" painting in black gray and white. His first paintings were a world of half monsters where he kept the human figure but distorted it. His latest works are an image of sorrow and revolt, made in a frenzy of dripping paint, an odd brushstroke and cartoon-like drawing. These works have a seriously social intention or an overtly political significance.

The Alicante-born artist, Eusebio Sempere, an abstractionist since 1949 was a constructivist. In his serigraphs (silk screen), rhythmic compositions, very expert and often complex, are dominated by closely woven hatching and



"Cabesa-3"



"Personaje"

parallel lines of light and shade, gradations rendered in 22 different tints. Sempere is known for his three dimensional creations which are pierced paintings or reliefs, on several planes, with changing electric lighting placed inside them, periodically producing different compositions. In one of the serigraphs, we can locate the same moiré effect that we see in his relief work.

Lucio Muñoz is a narrative painter of high impasto and austere colours. He makes use, in his serigraphs, of value contrasts to create a violent thrust, enhanced on one occasion by gestural tachism.

The "Equipo Cronica" included the Valencian pop artist team Rafael Solbes and Manuel Valdes who collaborated from 1965 until 1981. They both rejected the subjective approach of the then dominant art groups such as Dan Al Set, El Paso and Equipo 57. They recorded current trends and concerns by juxtaposing symbols of high popular culture. They rendered imagery in a

flat, fluid, painted-by-numbers manner and added to this simplified poster-like look, a blend of imagery lovingly copied from a long list of well-known modern and historical artists. Their joint works are thought-provoking juxtapositions of art and life. Valdes' etching "Felipe IV" reiterates with the simplest stylisation, the many monumental portraits by Velasquez of his king and benefactor. An abstracted profile, two hands in white against a flat black background, tells it all.

World famous Dario Villalba belonged to the Grupo Quince. He portrays man in huge photographic enlargements, cut into silhouette form, and incorporated into a transparent box. This falls under neo-abstractionism, abstraction based on cold reality. The photographed face turns a look of cold hatred upon the cruelties of the social system. Over it he scrawls symbols as comments. Three slightly different versions of this awesome work render his aggressive preaching as acceptable as Goya's etchings of The Horrors of War.

These artists and others, with their diversified styles and notions, reached heights that enabled them to stand with the great masters of contemporary art in the world today. Referring to the thriving art market in Spain, Ambassador Armengod mentions his visit to ARCO, an annual international art exhibition held in Spain where thousands of square metres are covered with paintings. "There was a great profusion of Spanish art. They take all the paths from surrealist works to rough textured informal paintings, with incrustations and collages of different materials. Some are post impressionist, figurative, provincial; others are practically avant-garde. This great artistic upheaval is due to government promotion of the arts and the booming economy in Spain," he says. Spain is now a treasure mine of great works that most galleries and art markets in the world probe into. The names of Spanish artists appear in major galleries, museums and publications around the world today.

## Whistling — a language on Canary Island

By Stephen Brown  
Renter

LA GOMERA, Canary Islands — Whistling is a second language on La Gomera, one of the seven Canary Islands.

When a farmer on the mountainous island in Spain's Atlantic archipelago wants to talk a friend across a deep valley, he just puts his lips together and blows.

Appropriately enough, those engaged in such long-distance conversation sound like canaries — with megaphones.

"You can say anything" by whistling and if the weather's good you can hear it three kilometres away," said Domingo Darias Padron, a burly 50-year-old who learnt the "silbo" as a boy from his father, a farm labourer.

The small island with just 18,000 inhabitants, swathed with

banana plantations and bristling with palm trees, is one of the least developed in the archipelago.

The tiny capital San Sebastian dozes beside the sparkling blue Atlantic. Christopher Columbus made it his last stop on the way to the new world which was symbolically baptised with water from a well in the town's customs house.

On a hill high above the town Domingo, his brother Jose and Paulino Herrera give a private demonstration of the island's unique form of communication whose origins are uncertain.

The principle is simple. Each letter in the alphabet has an equivalent whistle-sound, but the words rush not from between their lips fast and fluently, bending and arching and changing in pitch just like birdsong.

It requires a high degree of skill and five years to learn.

Paulino whistles to Domingo, "do you want a beer?" and

Domingo immediately whistles back, "No, I don't feel like a beer right now."

"Have you ever been to Madrid, Domingo?" Paulino whistles on request. "Yes, I was there last year but I didn't like it. Everyone's crazy there," comes back the whistled reply.

The whistlers can get their lips round any word you like, including modern terms such as "computer" or "record player" and swearwords — Domingo readily whistled one choice expletive.

Some say the "silbo" was learnt from the indigenous guanaches before they became extinct shortly after conquest by Spain in the 15th century.

But it was widely used by peasants in the island's mountainous interior, growing their crops on man-made terraces that cling to the slopes, before the advent of modern communication.

Today it's used less, because

there are telephones and highways but in the old days two peasants would be working the land and they had to say things to each other by whistling because there was no other way of communicating," said Paulino.

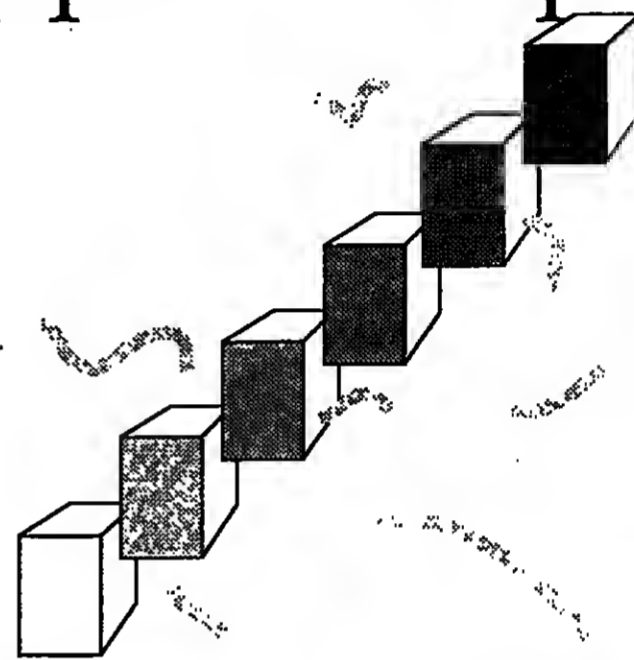
"There's no code with a key or anything like that," explains Paulino. "It's just a whistled conversation."

But the "silbo" has its use in modern life as well. Walk around San Sebastian and you hear neighbours whistling messages in each other and women whistling their husbands in to dinner.

"The other day Domingo was down on the beach with the van collecting stones and we needed him," recounts Paulino. "So instead of having to go all the way down to speak in him we just whistled to him to come."

And just as speech is accented, each town on Gomera has an accent for whistling.

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# Nikkei plunges 1,353 points

TOKYO (AP) — The Tokyo market's anxiety about a possible interest rate hike and the yen's decline against the U.S. dollar sent the key index on the Tokyo Stock Exchange plummeting to a 14-month low Monday.

The U.S. dollar, meanwhile, rose sharply against the yen to a mark a three-year high, fuelled by the currency's bullishness in overseas markets and Tokyo's poor performance.

The Nikkei stock average of 225 selected issues, which fell 55.20 points last Friday, plunged 1,353.20 points, or 4.15 per cent, Monday. Its closing at 31,263.24 was the lowest since it closed at 31,170.38 on Jan. 20, 1989.

The Nikkei's decline Monday was the third biggest single-day decline for the index. It plunged 3,836.48, or 14.9 per cent, on Oct. 20, 1987, in the worldwide "Black Monday" stock market crash, and 1,569.10 points, or 4.50 per cent, on Feb. 26 this year.

In Monday's early trading, the index rose 105 points as investors were encouraged by last Friday's gains on Wall Street. But early optimism was followed by a sharp decline in late morning as institu-

tional investors began cashing in their trust funds.

"The anxiety about the interest rate hike, coupled with the weak yen against the dollar are the main causes of today's fall," said Ichitaro Watanabe, a dealer with Nikko Securities Co. "The market as a whole appears very pessimistic about the current situation and I have heard that there was some panic selling."

He added that a sharp fall in index future prices also triggered massive selling on the spot market.

"There was not one outstanding reason for the Nikkei's fall today," said Keiichi Nishida of Kidder Peabody Securities. "But, rather, while the market as a whole lacks buying incentives entirely, a series of bad news such as the interest rate hike and unstable exchange rates hit the market, triggering the sharp fall."

Nishida warned that "because Monday's drop was not the result of panic selling, there is a widely shared fear in the market that share prices may fall even further until they really hit the bottom."

"But at this point, no one knows where the bottom really is," he added.

The share of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp., which once was the driving force of the affluent Tokyo exchange, declined 20,000 yen from the previous day's close to finish at 1.8 million yen, the lowest since it was released in the market in April 1986.

In the currency market, the U.S. dollar closed at 153.55 yen, up 1.05 yen from last Friday's close of 152.50 yen. After opening at 152.48 yen, it seceded in a wide range of 152.35-153.80 yen.

Currency dealers said the dollar was firm against the Japanese yen even though the American currency was sold against the Deutschmark because of the conservatives' impressive showing Sunday in East Germany's elections.

The Nikkei's sharp drop in the stock market prompted the market players' selling of the yen for the dollar, giving a stronger upward push to the American currency, they said.

"The market players were expecting to see a stronger yen today as the speculation about a possible interest rate hike on Tuesday swirled around the mar-

ket," said a dealer with Daiichi Kangyo Bank, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"But after seeing the unexpectedly bullish dollar Monday morning, players began buying the dollar almost one-sidedly," he added. "I would not be surprised to see the dollar surpass the 154-yen mark before the interest rate hike actually happens."

Dealers said the Bank of Japan made "large-scale interventions" throughout Monday to stem the yen's fall. One dealer with Daiichi Kangyo Bank said the central bank bought at least \$1 billion worth of the Japanese yen Monday.

But Masaki Tanahashi, a dealer with the Mitsui Bank, said some market players were hesitating to buy the yen until the Bank of Japan decides to raise its official discount rate from the current 4.25 per cent.

Japanese media have speculated for weeks that the Bank of Japan will raise its key lending rate, charged for loans to commercial banks, by as much as one percentage point.

This would affect other domestic interest rates.

# Gorbachev targets July 1 for radical economic changes

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev is aiming to introduce radical legislation by July 1 to turn around the ailing Soviet economy and transform it into a market system, Moscow economists said Monday.

They said Gorbachev would use his new powers as executive president to push through the far-reaching measures, including price reform and the creation of share companies.

"The decision is taken. The aim is to remove the state's monopoly stranglehold on the economy," said one of the economists, who are close to a team of advisers around Deputy Prime Minister Leonid Abalkin — the man in charge of the Kremlin's economic reforms.

"The situation is bad and getting worse and we have to move fast," the economist added.

The Moscow radio news service Interfax, which in recent months has frequently given advance news of Kremlin plans, disclosed earlier that the new economic package had been prepared by Abalkin.

The economists said Abalkin and his advisers had decided that Poland's economic reforms provided the best model for the Soviet Union.

"That is essentially what it amounts to," one economist said. "There will obviously be variants, taking accounts of differences in the size of our economies, but that is where we are heading. July 1 is the target date."

Since the Solidarity administration took over from the communists in Warsaw last summer, removal of state subsidies and radical financial measures have set Poland on a market path some Soviet ideologists are denouncing as "capitalist."

The decision to drive for rapid progress towards radical reform was signalled by Gorbachev in a speech to parliament last Thursday after his election as the country's first executive president.

The radical turn was implicitly confirmed by his chief economic adviser Nikolai Petrakov, who told Interfax at the weekend he felt foreign banks and companies should be able to take shares in Soviet enterprises.

Petrakov said the Soviet economy "has to become open, so as to fit into the system of the international division of labour." He did not exclude the possibility of a foreign aid package like the post-World War II Marshall plan.

The Kremlin leader himself said Thursday that laws and decisions to "demonopolise" the eco-

nomy and introduce "a genuine and full-blooded domestic market" as well as price reforms could no longer be delayed.

But a move along the Polish path would be an even more direct challenge to Kremlin conservatives whose standard-bearer Yegor Ligachev said last week that events in Eastern Europe were "a massive retreat from socialism."

Interfax said the new programme was aimed at "destatisation of property and the transfer to a market economy. It will lead to the demonopolisation and de-ideologisation of the economy and of public life."

"The programme envisages financial and banking reform, the passage of a law on share companies, a reform of prices and the introduction of compensatory measures for the population during the transfer to new consumer prices," it added.

Interfax said the programme also envisaged making the Soviet rouble convertible into other international hard currencies, but the service gave no time frame for this.

Interfax said a team of 60 specialists working under Abalkin had come to the conclusion that mild economic reform measures taken so far had made the crisis worse — while Petrakov said the government had been unresponsive.

Petrakov said the government was following "an insane investment policy" by financing the continuation of major industrial projects that could not be completed, and had also lost control over wages.

"It is becoming clear that this year's planned (growth and production) targets will not be met. Heads of ministries and (government) departments are displaying sheer irresponsibility in all questions," he said.

Interfax indicated the new package, which it suggested represented a "180-degree turnaround" by the government, would effectively supersede a moderate reform programme introduced last December by Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov.

Foreign analysts in Moscow said the developments of the past few days put a growing question mark over the future of Ryzhkov, a former industrial manager who has avoided displaying commitment to deep-cutting radical reform.

Petrakov's remarks only confirm my feeling that Ryzhkov's time is coming to a close," said one economic expert in a major Western embassy.

## Brazilians back Collor

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A poll released Sunday shows Brazilians overwhelmingly back an emergency economic plan decreed last week by recently inaugurated President Fernando Collor de Mello.

The poll, conducted in Brazil's ten largest cities and published in the prominent daily newspaper Folha de Sao Paulo, showed 58 per cent of respondents backed the plan while eight per cent were opposed.

The survey, conducted Saturday, interviewed 5,290 people on the street or at home.

The emergency measures, decreed to fight inflation that totalled 2,700 per cent during the past year, included a 30-day price freeze to be followed by government-set wage-and-price limits, a new currency, and drastic cuts in government spending to eliminate a \$31 billion budget deficit.

The package was announced by Collor de Mello last Friday, one day after he took office as Brazil's first freely elected president in 29 years.

# Kohl urges all Germans to step up cooperation

BONN (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, buoyed by the conservative election triumph in East Germany, appealed to East and West Monday to set aside ideological divisions and build an integrated European economy on the common ground they share.

Kohl, delivering a keynote speech at the opening of a 35-nation Conference on East-West Economic Cooperation, told government officials and industrialists it was time to forget narrow-minded nationalism and create a new economic order.

"We are at a historical turning point," he told the first session of the three-week long meeting, an offshoot of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

"A Europe is emerging in which old and new democracies are coming together... as ideological and political antagonism is overcome, there is a growing awareness of common ground in Europe."

The conference, grouping all European nations except Albania plus the United States and Canada, has been thrust into the spotlight by the upheaval in East Europe and, more immediately, by Sunday's first free elections in East Germany.

The surprisingly clear-cut victory for the East German conservatives was hailed Sunday by Kohl as a clear choice for the free market and rejection of four decades of Stalinist central planning and an economic model East European nations from Poland to the Soviet Union are also now jettisoning.

"Nowhere did the scars of World War II remain longer than in divided Germany," Kohl said Monday. "But nowhere is the hope for a peaceful, united Europe stronger than here in Germany."

"The division of Germany was always the division of Europe — now we must use all our strength to overcome both divisions peacefully," he stressed.

The CSCE conference, which Wednesday will split into four working groups investigating economic questions from joint ventures to currency convertibility, is the biggest gathering of East and West since the Berlin wall crumbled last November.

As the two Germanys move swiftly to monetary union — East Germany's economics minister designate Elmar Piontch spoke Monday of a deal by June 30 — the practical problems of economic integration have also come to the fore.

West German Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann, also addressing the CSCE conference, said the economic integration of the two Germanys should foster closer business contacts throughout East and West Europe.

"We have a great chance to map out a future built on free markets," he said. "The future belongs to a European economic zone, binding together and governed by rules of the market."

Kohl dismissed fears that German unity would slow the European Community's plans for a single market after 1992 and its own monetary union aimed at forging a single currency.

Meanwhile, Sunday's unexpected landslide conservative win in East German elections touched off a fresh rally in West German share prices and pushed the Deutschmark sharply higher against most major currencies Monday.

"I am totally optimistic for the German market," said Klaus Heintzen, senior share trader for Bankhaus Bethmann, echoing a

widely held belief that West German companies will reap a bonanza from pent-up East German demand.

This sent share prices up by around two per cent, although they later eased as euphoria waned. "We cannot go on haying forever," said one dealer in Frankfurt.

The 30-share DAX index closed 17.08 points up at 1,906.77 after hitting a day's high of 1,931.08 in mid-session.

Overall reaction was a good deal less euphoric than some economists and analysts had anticipated, given the unexpected trouncing the three-party Conservative Alliance for Germany gave the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD).

"The conservative victory will boost confidence tremendously. It means East Germany will follow a clear path of economic and monetary reform, and that any obstacles will be disposed of quickly," said Norbert Walter, chief economist at Deutsche Bank. "Everything will move much faster now."

The first signs of the quicker pace came early Monday. Piontch, said monetary union would likely be sealed by June 30. He also confirmed that East German savings, estimated at around 170 billion marks (\$101 billion), would be swapped for West German marks at a rate of two-to-one.

West Germany wants to replace the almost worthless East German mark with its own currency as a first step towards integration of its neighbour's economy. This will give East Germans cash for goods they have been deprived of for years.

But this has raised fears that West Germany might have to print money to soak up East German marks, raising the prospect of higher inflation and increased interest rates to defend the West German currency against potential weakness.

The faster pace toward union made traders on the precarious German bond market nervous. Investors were divided as to whether rapid integration was good or bad news for prices.

"The problem is that the election doesn't really solve any of the other problems, like the risk of inflation," said Thomas Miskell of London Securities House S.G. Strauss and Turnbull.

Bond markets fear the Bundesbank might be forced to raise interest rates before the summer but economists say the powerful and conservative West German central bank will probably hold out as long as it can before any rate rise.

# IBM posts lower earnings

NEW YORK (R) — International Business Machines (IBM) Corp., the world's largest computer company, has reported sharply lower fourth-quarter and yearly earnings for 1989 due to restructuring and job cut costs.

The restructuring charge of \$2.4 billion, or \$2.58 a share, was \$100 million more than the company indicated earlier. But the earnings figures were below expectations, even accounting for the higher restructuring cost.

For the quarter, the Armonk, N.Y.-based computer giant said earnings fell to \$591 million or \$1.04 a share, from \$2.35 billion, or \$3.97 a share. Revenues rose

to \$20.46 billion from \$20.00 billion in the 1988 period.

For the year, its earnings dropped to \$3.76 billion from \$5.81 billion while revenues rose to \$62.71 billion from \$59.68 billion.

IBM has been hit by slack demand for computers, both in the United States and, increasingly, in foreign markets. The slowdown was evident in the fourth quarter, when sales barely moved higher.

Responding to the slowdown, the company announced the charges for plant consolidation, reduced operations and adjustments in the value of investments.

## AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, March 19, 1990					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	670.0	674.0	French franc	117.5	118.2
Found Sterling	1079.1	1085.5	Japanese yen (for 100)	326.4	329.0
Deutschmark	397.0	399.4	Dutch guilder	332.5	334.6
Swiss franc	444.6	447.3	Swedish crown	109.2	109.9
			Italian lira (for 100)	33.8	34.1
			Belgian franc (for 10)	190.9	192.0

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.6130/40	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1840/50	Canadian dollar	
	1.6858/65	Deutschmarks	
	1.9000/10	Dutch guilders	
	1.5087/94	Swiss francs	
	35.02/07	Belgian francs	
	5.7020/70	French francs	
	1245/1246	Italian lire	
	153.57/67	Japanese yen	
	6.1250/1300	Swedish crowns	
	6.5525/75	Norwegian crowns	
	6.4605/55	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	401.15/401.55	U.S. dollars	

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Australia's share market closed firmer in the face of heavy falls in Tokyo's Nikkei Index. The All Ordinaries ended up 15.2 at 1,599.7.

TOKYO — Tokyo shares dropped more than 1,300 points to close with the third biggest one-day point fall in history. The key 225-share Nikkei Index plunged 1,353.20 to close at 31,263.24, a 4.15 pct drop.

HONG KONG — Share prices eased in Hong Kong in reaction to the slide in Tokyo stock prices. The Hang Seng Index ended 15.07 points lower at 2,871.39.

SINGAPORE — Shares were broadly weaker in this trading but closed above their lows on late bargain hunting. The Straits Times index fell 8.13 to 1,562.86.

BOMBAY — Nervous trading kept investors to the sidelines on day of the 1990-91 budget, ending March 31, so that shares ended mixed. The Bombay Stock Exchange Index fell 4.99 to 681.30.

FRANKFURT — Prices surged in lively trade, swept higher by a euphoric response to conservative victory in East German elections. The Dax closed 17.08 points up at 1,906.77.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed lower on low volume after prices came off earlier highs on profit-taking. The Swiss performance index was 6.1 points lower at 1,096.6.

PARIS — In line with the decline on major stock markets, French share prices ended near the day's lows. The market opened slightly lower on Tokyo's sharp drop and a new wave of late sales was triggered by Wall Street's initial slide. The CAC-40 index lost 21.86 points to 1,936.96.

LONDON — Shares were sharply down to late afternoon as the market felt pressure of sharp falls on overseas markets. At 1638 GMT, the FTSE index was down 27.3 points at 2,236.6.

NEW YORK — Gains in several U.S. airline issues were unable to prevent a further slide in U.S. stocks. The Dow fell 28 to 2,713.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY MARCH 28, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** We celebrate the Vernal Equinox today as the Sun enters Aries affording a grand opportunity to establish an excellent new approach at life and to deal with current difficulties.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) A new attitude will make it possible to get more benefits from your activities. A sudden trip with several persons could bring much pleasure in you and mate.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) If you want to get better acquainted with an interesting newcomer, get off alone with that person. Discuss now with a travel expert a trip you plan to take with mate.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Accept an invitation from a dynamic friend to go to jazz. Assume and measure your attachment now that you are happy romantically.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 21 to July 21) Several projects require your attention to schedule your time. Soft pedal your desire for romance and you win out with your mate.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Go on short trips to places of recreation where you have never been. There is so much activity about with you and 'mate you need to use self-control not to become irritable.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) A woman from a distance will bring you some social down to earth benefits. Don't let an older person get in the way of your romantic happiness.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Accept sudden invitations socially from relatives and companions who live nearby. Older persons will be your best guests in your home.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Your family will soon see eye to eye with you out on an interesting trip. Spend every possible moment today with your attachment.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Go with family on jaunts to visit with family members, but insist upon mate going along if there are any objections that do develop.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) A progressive person will give you a great suggestion for increasing success. A day to really fully enjoy the flashpots with your attachment.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Use down in earth suggestions given by a practical woman family member. Home is where your heart is now so enjoy to the fullest.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Agree to meet friends of an older acquaintance who have much to offer. Try to get a family member to go out into the world much more.

## THE Daily Crossword by Bruce W. Thompson

ACROSS

1. Kapt
5. Passageway
10. Attire
14. Festival
15. Talk nonsense
16. Gen
17. Talk back
18. Loonies
19. TV science show
20. Meat
23. Teases
24. College tests
25. Overhead
26. Eccentric
31. Pine fruit
32. Behind the — (with "The")
34. Vigils of TV
37. Sellers film
40. Print squares
41. More proud
42. Bunder
43. Have a — stand on
44. Indecent
45. Breakfast
48. Stylish
50. Sellers film
52. Benl
57. Jeans fabric
58. Path
60. Actress
61. Odds out
62. Metalware
63. Fulfill
64. "to come —"
65. Blissful place

DOWN

1. Attire
2. QED word
3. Luxurious
4. Merits
5. Improvise
6. Shackles
7. HK hard
8. Chicago section
9. Ms. Lanchester
10. Well-born people
11. Greeting
12. Have a great time
13. Tolerates
21. Dessert
22. — not (medicore)
23. Meat
24. Prosperous time
27. Responsibility
28. Lotto kin
29. Put money in the pot
30. Region; abbr.
32. Kind of party
33. Voucher
34. In a line
35. Rosary unit
36. Vertax
38. Happening
39. Menu word
43. Fried
48. Macho guys
49. Confusion of sound
51. Original thought
52. Following
53. Piece of hardware
54. Cross
55. Cabbage
58. Lair

Saturday's Puzzle Solved:

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## THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"Harriet is a VERY thorough housekeeper. She flosses our goldfish's teeth."

## JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CHAYT

YURMK

KLUNIE

GOFERR

HE BUILT A GOOD FIRE, AND SHE SAID THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: "O O O O O - O O O O!"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PEACE ROACH WINNOWN MARLIN

Answer: They used to consider him a "rake," but now a LAWN MOWER

## Milan, hammered by City Rivals Inter, now beset by doubts

TWO WEEKS AGO, AC Milan were top of the Italian soccer league, unbeaten in 16 matches and confidently facing a European Cup quarter-final first leg against Mechelen of Belgium.

Now, after a 3-1 hammering by City Rivals Internazionale Sunday, the doubts and recriminations have begun.

"We've got to draw on all our strength of character to come out of this tunnel," said trainer Arrigo Sacchi, looking to the European Cup second leg in midweek. The first leg ended in a scoreless draw.

Diego Maradona's Napoli, still in second place one point behind Milan, provided the only good news Sunday for the European and world club champions by also losing 2-1 at Sampdoria.

Inter, Sampdoria and Juventus, who beat Milan 3-0 in Turin last week, are all level four points behind.

We're still top despite having lost two matches and that's the most important thing. But I'm looking for a gutsy response especially from our leading players," Sacchi said.

While Sacchi blamed his defence, previously one of the team's strongest assets, for the two defeats, the media blamed the coach for his policy of switching between Andrea Pazzagli and Giovanni Galli in goal in alternate matches.

"Sacchi scores an own goal" said a headline in the Corriere Della Sera, which said the coach's inexplicable juggling risked turning both goalkeepers into emotional wrecks.

A nervous Pazzagli made a fatal error in coming to the edge of the area to try to hold off striker Aldo Serena, who simply lofted the ball over the goalkeeper's head.

Milan captain Franco Baresi

shared Sacchi's view that the defence was faulty. "Something isn't going right. The off-side trap isn't proving as effective as it used to," he said.

Napoli coach Alberto Bigon was furious that his team had yet again failed to capitalise on Milan's defeat.

"It was an incredible defeat. We lost an unrepeatable chance to overtake Milan," he said gloomily.

In the Netherlands, champions PSV also disappointed, drawing 1-1 with FC Twente in a match that augured badly for the European Cup quarter-final second leg tie against Bayern Munich.

PSV, who need to overturn a 2-1 first-leg deficit, were saved from defeat by FC Twente with a freak goal in injury time to defender Stans Valck. Ajax Amsterdam failed to cash in on the setback by drawing 0-0 against Utrecht.

## Baseball lockout ends, season to open April 9

NEW YORK (R) — Major League Baseball Players and the teams' owners have agreed to a four-year labour contract, ending a 32-day delay of spring training and leading to the opening of the regular season on April 9, baseball commissioner Fay Vincent said Monday.

The spring training camps will open Tuesday and the first exhibition game is scheduled for March 26, deputy commissioner Steve Greenberg said.

"We're obviously concerned that two weeks of spring training is not adequate, that it's not long enough," said Dr. Bobby Brown, President of the American League. "We're counting on the fact that the players did some work on their own and that the third week will get them in good enough shape."

"I am delighted to have this opportunity to announce this agreement in principle," Vincent said. "It is a four-year agreement. It includes a minimum salary of \$100,000, up from \$68,000, substantial contribution to players (pension fund) of \$5 million for each of four years."

The major stumbling block to the new agreement was the amount of service in the major leagues a player must have before he can seek arbitration for his pay.

The owners had insisted on maintaining at least the three-year service requirement, while the players wanted it rolled back to two years.

## Noah upset, Sabatini wins

KEY BISCAENE, FLA (R) — Yannick Noah of France was an upset victim but top-seeded woman Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina advanced at the \$2.55 million International Players Championships tennis tournament Sunday.

Noah, seeded ninth, was beaten by unseeded qualifier Mark Kratzmann of Australia 6-4 in a second round match. Sabatini had to work hard to get by the backcourt game of Japan's unseeded Maya Kidowaki 6-2.

Earlier, unseeded American teenage sensation Jennifer Capriati won her third-round women's singles match when her opponent, unseeded compatriot Patty Fendick, suffered a knee injury. Fendick was leading 4-2 in

the first set when she retired. Noah, ranked 12, has now lost in the first round of three of his last four tournaments. He came close to victory against Kratzmann, ranked 64, but a couple of loose errors at the end cost him the victory.

Kratzmann, a left-handed serve and volleyer, used his strengths to good advantage and passed the tall Frenchman effectively when Noah rushed the net. After splitting the first two sets, it was Noah who was always fighting to stay alive, saving off three break points at 4-4 and taking the set to the tiebreak at 6-6.

The players traded five consecutive breaks at the start of the tiebreak, but it was Kratzmann who took a 5-2 lead with an

overhead smash. The dynamic Noah lunged for a crosscourt volley and leaped for an overhead smash to reach 5-4, then passed Kratzmann to even the score.

Kratzmann reached match point at 6-5 when Noah missed a chipped return, but Noah held off Kratzmann with a forehand volley. But a badly mis-hit lob by Noah gave Kratzmann match point again. This time the Australian got the victory when Noah gave him a low lob to smash easily away for a winner.

"At the end I made two lousy shots and that was it," Noah said. "I was very disappointed. When you lose it in the tiebreak at the end of the match it goes so fast. A minute before you were so close to winning the match."

## Baseball negotiations carry on

NEW YORK (AP) — Players and owners met Sunday to see if they could come up with a formula to settle the salary arbitration eligibility issue and end the 32-day lockout.

Players union head Donald Fehr and Milwaukee Brewers owner Bud Selig appeared on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley," but did not indicate if an agreement was close.

The players want the top half of all two-year players to be eligible for arbitration, while owners have refused to reduce the three years currently required to file.

But owners negotiator Chuck O'Connor said there might be room for movement on arbitration by addressing the problem of players who are deliberately deprived of service time in order to keep them out of arbitration.

O'Connor said the union's claim on this "was a legitimate argument." That might lead to a proposal to redefine what qualifies as a full year of service.

With all the other issues settled, the two sides spent the day trying to find a solution on the eligibility question.

The sides have been looking for common ground on the arbitration issue and O'Connor said he hoped the issue of what the union claims are players deliberately deprived of service time might be "a narrow piece of turf" on which the sides could agree.

Currently, players sent to the minor leagues on option for up to 20 days in a season get credit for a full year, but players sent down for 21 days do not.

If the sides agreed to let players get a full year of service despite a

greater number of days in the minors, additional players would be able to have their salaries decided by an arbitrator.

Owners won back the year of arbitration eligibility in 1985 when they claimed the game was losing money.

There was no formal announcement that opening day would be postponed from April 2. On Saturday, baseball commissioner Fay Vincent said preserving the original starting date was becoming "a pipe dream."

O'Connor said he believed that a full 162-game schedule could be played by each team if an agreement were reached quickly, even if games would not start April 2.

On Sunday, Oakland manager Tony La Russa said he feared there would be injuries if players had less than three weeks of spring training.

## Watson and Gamez bobble chances in championship

PONTE VEDRA, Florida (AP) — Tom Watson and Robert

Gamez shot themselves out of contention in an incredible series

of misadventures Sunday in the delayed completion of third-round play in the players championship.

Meanwhile, Jodie Mudd held a one-stroke lead over British Open Champion Mark Calcavecchia and his close friend, Ken Green, going into Sunday's final round.

The veteran Watson had scores of 8 and 8 on the 16th and 17th holes of the TPC at Sawgrass and went from 2-under-par to 6-over. He had an 81 and finished three rounds at 222.

The Rookie Gamez, who won his first start as a member of the PGA tour, went from 4-under-par to 4-over-par with an 11 on the 17th, a 132-yard (119-metre) par-3 with an Island Green.

In addition, he learned he was slapped with a 2-shot penalty for an improper drop Saturday. That gave him a 79 and also finished 54 holes at 222.

The 17th also claimed Mudd and veteran Hale Irwin. Mudd hit one shot into the water there and made double bogey. So did Irwin.

"The wind is in your face there," Mudd said. "But if you look at the flag, it's still. The wind is swirling gusts so you just can't judge what club to use."

Mudd, however, escaped with a round of 70 and the third-round lead at 209, 7-under-par.

Calcavecchia and Green were tied at 210. Green shot a 70 and Calcavecchia a 68 that included what he called "a good break" on the 17th. His nine-iron shot stopped in the back fringe, centimetres from dropping over the bulkheads and into the water.

Defending champion Tom Kite remained in contention at 212, tied with Clark Burroughs and Irwin, the second-round leader. Kite shot a 70, Burroughs matched par 72 and Irwin took a 74.

All those leaders were on the front side Saturday when heavy rain forced an overnight delay in play.

Gamez, who scored an eagle-3 on the 16th, was listed at 4-under-par and within sight of the lead when he went to the tee on the 17th.

He promptly hit four shots into the water there and wandered away to the 18th tee with an 11 on his card.

The 21-year-old parred the 18th and finished with what he thought was 77.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH

#### ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠AS ♠Q10762 ♠VD ♠AKQ972  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠

What do you bid now?  
A.—All you are interested in is partner's trump holding. If he has both the ace and king, you should be laydown for a grand slam; if you are missing one, a small slam is enough. Bid five or six trump, the Grand Slam. Force. This commands partner to bid seven hearts with two of the top three trump honors. If he has none, you are too high, but perhaps partner has six hearts and the ace and king will crash together.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠Q76 ♠9 ♠AQ10962 ♠AQ5  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ 3 ♠

What do you bid now?  
A.—East's preemptive jump has jammed the bidding. If you elect to rebid your diamonds, you are running two risks: First, you are bypassing three no trump; secondly, you might lose a spade contract. While we realize that partner might have only a poor four-card suit for his response, our choice would, nevertheless, be three spades.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠Q9843 ♠85 ♠QJ63 ♠73  
Partner opens the bidding with a demand bid of two spades. What do you respond?  
A.—There's a textbook bid to de-

scribe this hand exactly—a jump to four spades. That shows good trump support while denying a first or second-round control in any side suit.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠QJ63 ♠875 ♠J652 ♠73  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
2 ♠ 2 ♠ ?  
What action do you take?  
A.—Again, this is a textbook situation. Double. After partner's demand bid, the double announces you have some strength in the overcaller's suit but little or nothing elsewhere. Partner should be perfectly placed to decide what to do.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South with 60 on score you hold:  
♠KJ6 ♠Q109 ♠AJ104 ♠QJ9  
What is your opening bid?  
A.—If you open one diamond, you could run into all sorts of problems later in the auction. We would opt for one no trump, because of the balanced nature of our hand, the soft values and good intermediates. With a 60 partial, your no trump range stretches to something like 14-20, and partner must allow for that.

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South with 60 on score you hold:  
♠AJ063 ♠K76 ♠K85 ♠K85  
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take?  
A.—This is a corollary to the previous question. Since partner's no trump might be stronger than usual, it behooves you to raise to two no trump just in case he's on the heavy side for his bid.

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## Red Army holds exercises in breakaway republic Lithuanians in Moscow for talks on declaration of independence

MOSCOW (AP) — A delegation of Lithuanian legislators arrived in Moscow Monday seeking talks on their declaration of independence, which the Kremlin has branded illegal.

In the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius, president Vytautas Landsbergis said Soviet military manoeuvres taking place in the breakaway Baltic Republic were increasing tensions in the region.

On Sunday, Soviet jets buzzed Vilnius in what many Lithuanians consider an intimidation tactic, and manoeuvres were carried out in the countryside.

"The military exercises of Soviet troops in Lithuania now under way are intensifying tensions," Landsbergis told the morning session of the republic's legislature, according to Lithuanian television editor Eduard Potashnikov, who monitored the meeting.

Landsbergis told the legislature high-ranking Soviet officers Sunday informed him that the manoeuvres had been planned long in

advance.

A Soviet spokesman in Moscow said the operations were not extensive.

When Landsbergis asked if he would be notified in advance of future manoeuvres, one of the officers replied that he could not guarantee such a proposal, according to Potashnikov.

Gennady Moscow, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said he was told by the defence ministry that "no major military manoeuvres are under way in Lithuania. The armed forces are acting in accordance with training plans."

The six-member delegation, headed by Vilnius lawyer and legislator Egidius Bickauskas, was empowered by the republic's Supreme Soviet to meet with President Mikhail Gorbachev and

propose beginning negotiations on independence, a spokesman for the Sajudis political movement said.

On Friday, the Soviet leader sent a cable to Landsbergis, giving him three days to respond to the congress' decree that independence, declared by Lithuania on Feb. 11, was "invalid and illegal."

Bickauskas, who is also a deputy in the national Supreme Soviet, said at Monday's Kremlin session that the situation in the republic was normal and "the Lithuanian government is in control."

He said the Lithuanian legislature Saturday confirmed its decision to declare independence and urged the Soviet Union "to solve the issue through inter-state talks."

The Lithuanian delegation carried a response to Gorbachev's demand and Bickauskas said a letter on the issue will be conveyed to the Soviet leader.

A spokesman for the Sajudis political movement in Vilnius said, "basically, the reply says that the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet has the mandate to enter negotiations with the USSR government."

"The main thing now is to reach an agreement in principle in starting the negotiating process," Sajudis spokesman Andreas Ajubalis said.

Nikolai Medvedev, a delegation member and national Supreme Soviet deputy, said in an interview at Monday's session of the legislature that they hoped to meet with Gorbachev Monday, but no appointment had been set.

"We are here and waiting to be called," he said. "We will stay here as long as it takes."

He said he did not expect an immediate start to negotiations. "There will be some delay as the issues are contemplated. Then negotiations will start at the official level, and eventually, actual negotiations."

## Sikh extremists kill 21 in Punjab

AMRITSAR, India (AP) — Sikh gunmen raided a farm near Amritsar in Punjab state and fatally shot five members of the same family, accusing them of being police informers, police said Monday.

Elsewhere in the state, Sikh extremists killed 16 people since Sunday night, including 11 people who were shot to death during attacks on three trucks, the police said.

In the attack at the farm in Guru-Ka-Kho village Sunday night, two militants opened "indiscriminate fire" in the courtyard, killing the owner, Mahendral Singh, his three sons and a brother-in-law, said a senior police officer, R.P. Singh.

A note claiming responsibility for the killings was found near the bodies Sunday, the officer said. He said the note was signed by a group called Khalistan Commando Force, one of the several militant organisations fighting to set up an independent nation in Punjab.

The militants call the proposed nation "Khalistan," or the land of the pure.

Senior Police Superintendent Surjit Singh said Sikh gunmen ambushed three trucks Sunday night in Talandi village and shot to death 11 people travelling in them.

It was not immediately clear whether the attacks were launched simultaneously or if they were unrelated, Singh said.

Talandi, located in Ferozepur district, is about 70 kilometres south of Amritsar, the holiest Sikh city and the centre of the eight-year-old separatist campaign.

Other police officials said militants killed a Sikh clergyman, his bodyguard and a relative Sunday night.

do Force, one of the several militant organisations fighting to set up an independent nation in Punjab.

The Citizen newspaper reported Monday that security officials were worried about a possible violent white backlash against the growing black unrest.

Hurd in S. Africa

Meanwhile British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Monday that the wave of violence in South Africa was a tragedy that threatened hopes of solving the country's problems peacefully.

Hurd said on his arrival that he was looking forward to talks with South African President F.W. de Klerk and other leaders and that Britain hopes the reforms taking place in the country would lead to major changes.

"Britain had a very active and lively interest in what has been going on here and (has) worked long and spoken hard for the dismantling of apartheid," Hurd told reporters after arriving on a special Royal Air Force jet.

Commenting on a recent wave of black factional violence that has cost some 300 lives in the past month, Hurd said "violence and killings are in themselves a tragedy."

Hurd was greeted at the airport by South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha, who said his government was looking forward to substantive discussions with the British envoy on conditions in South Africa and the surrounding region.

Hurd is making a stopover in South Africa on his way to Namibia to attend independence ceremonies Tuesday for that nation when South Africa rule ends and a black nationalist government takes power.

Latvia followed Lithuania in legalising political parties several months ago.

Gorbachev, a local KGB official, and became a member of the city council.

In Leningrad, pro-democracy activists claimed many victories in individual races and estimated they would control at least 65 per cent of the city council, said Elena Zelinskaya of the North-West Information Agency.

Communist Party officials scored some victories, she said, mostly in the "closed" electoral districts such as army bases, where campaigning is not allowed.

In Moscow's Proletarsky district, former political prisoner Victor Bulgakov defeated Yuri

Faridkot district that borders Ferozepur. Police did not say why they were killed but the extremists are known to attack fellow Sikhs who do not support their cause.

The police officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a Hindu politician and a Sikh farmer were gunned down by extremists Sunday night in two separate incidents in the state.

The latest deaths brought to 392 the number of people killed this year by Sikh militants in their quest for Khalistan. The separatists claim they are socially and politically discriminated by the Hindu dominated government.

Sikhs are in a slight majority in Punjab, a rich farming state bordering Pakistan. Nationwide, Sikhs comprise 2 per cent of India's 880 million population while Hindus account for 82 per cent.

## Bhutto campaigns in Lahore today

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, sidestepping opposition demands that she seek fresh endorsement by parliament, takes her campaign for public support to the heartland of her political foes Tuesday with a huge rally in Lahore.

The rally set for March 20 coincides with the date on which the president's constitutional power to appoint the prime minister lapses and the National Assembly is empowered to elect the premier.

Bhutto has shunned repeated opposition demands that she seek re-election by the 237-member National Assembly on March 20, and instead she will go to Lahore, the Punjab power-base of her chief political foe Nawaz Sharif, to prove her popular support.

Political analysts say Bhutto, who has strengthened her position since she narrowly defeated a no-confidence vote in the assembly last November, stands to gain further after March 20.

able top candidate for the Social Democrats against Kohl, said the chancellor will now have to uphold his "big promises."

"The decisive thought for East Germans may have been, 'if we vote for Kohl, the money will flow,'" Lafontaine said in an interview with the ARD television network.

The main task of the Social Democrats will now be to confront Kohl with his own promises, Lafontaine said.

But Kohl said in Bonn that Sunday's projected election results were a mandate for reunification and Western-style democracy.

"The East German citizens have decided against every form of extremism," Kohl said. "Most important, they want to follow a path, together with West Germany, that will lead to unification."

The new East German government is likely to exist only long enough to negotiate the details of the unification of the two nations.

Kohl said that East German voters had "clearly rejected" the former Communists, who reconstituted themselves as the Party for Social Democracy.

The chancellor also urged East Germans to stay at home and help reconstruct a new country, a reference to the tens of thousands of East Germans who have fled to West Germany in the past year.

"My message at this hour is, 'stay home,'" Kohl said.

"Work with us in your villages, cities and communities, in your factories and in your local administrations to build up this beautiful country," Kohl said.

Meanwhile election fever crowds drinking champagne surged through Berlin as the city celebrated a massive vote in favour of a rapid transition to a united Germany.

Drab East Berlin became a blaze of light somewhat matching affluent West Berlin polls decision to ditch their worries and join the West.

Thousands of revellers turned out in a balmy spring night for festivities suggesting that Berlin will regain its role as the hub of a

## Deng to step down from last post

PEKING (Agencies) — Officials confirmed Monday that 85-year-old senior leader Deng Xiaoping would step down as chairman of the State Military Commission, his last formal post, at the forthcoming session of China's legislature.

Deng's resignation had been expected since last November when he formally retired from the Communist Party's Central Military Commission — the real controlling force over the 3.5-million-strong People's Liberation Army (PLA).

National People's Congress spokesman Yao Guang told a news conference there would be one candidate only, party leader Jiang Zemin, to succeed Deng in the state post.

Jiang rocketed to the top of the party as Deng's handpicked successor last June when hardliners used the army to crush student-led protests in Peking and ousted reformist General Secretary Zhao Ziyang.

A 63-year-old technocrat with no military experience, Jiang stepped into Deng's shoes as chief of the party's military commission and had been widely expected to take the equivalent state post which is of only ceremonial importance.

Deng Xiaoping has often expressed a desire to step down but his efforts to secure his proteges in power failed twice.

His Yaobang was never accepted by the military and was forced to resign as party leader by veteran hardliners in 1987. He died last April. A propaganda barrage directed at the military calls for loyalty to the party with Jiang at its core.

Zhao, has not been seen since last May when he appealed in vain to students in Tiananmen Square to end their protest hunger strike. Diplomats said it appeared the party was still undecided over Zhao's future. He has been accused of splitting the party but remains a member while under investigation.

Yao said Monday that social stability is more important than democratic reform. He also ruled out major personnel changes at the annual session of the legislature.

## U.S. jet crashes during South Korean exercises

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A U.S. Air Force F-4 Phantom jet fighter taking part in joint U.S.-South Korea military exercises crashed south of Seoul Monday but the two crewmen on board ejected safely, a U.S. military announcement said.

The U.S. military jet from Clark Air Base in the Philippines crashed near Chongju, 100 kilometres south of Seoul, shortly after 1 p.m. (0400 GMT), the announcement said.

The South Koreans News Agency (Yonhap) said the jet exploded after crashing into a mountainside near a reservoir. It was the second accident involving U.S. military aircraft in this year's joint U.S.-South Korea "team spirit" exercises, which began last week.

On Thursday, a U.S. helicopter on a night flying mission crashed after hitting a power line south of Seoul. No one was killed.

About 190,000 U.S. and South Korean troops are taking part in this year's exercises. The manoeuvres have been held annually since 1976.

In a separate announcement, American military officials said a U.S. army vehicle taking part in the exercises collided with a motorcycle south of Seoul, killing one South Korean man and injuring another.

In another team spirit-related accident, three South Korean soldiers have been missing since Saturday, when a civilian boat taking them across a river capsized 56 kilometres south of Seoul, South Korean officials said.

The officials said the three soldiers, all privates first class, were

presumed dead after three days of searching failed to locate them.

All but 7 protesters freed

In a separate development, police Monday released all but seven workers arrested a day earlier in nationwide labour protests organised by an outlawed dissident union group, officials said.

Police officials said 1,552 people, some of them radical students, were arrested in clashes with riot police in Seoul, Pusan, Taegu, Taejeon, Incheon, Chongju, Anyang and Bucheon.

Three people were referred to summary courts for detention of up to 30 days and four still remained under police interrogation, with the remaining set free with warnings, they said.

Sunday's protests were called by Chonohyop, a nationwide dissident Labour organisation outlawed by the government. Officials claim that the group is led by leftist leaders.

Sunday's protests were smaller than expected, apparently because 5,000 riot police blocked planned rally sites at schools and public parks. Many people trying to join the rally were taken away by police in a preventive move.

In Seoul, about 400 workers and radical students held an indoor rally at a church after their original rally site, Yonsei University, had been blocked by several thousand police troops.

During the one-hour rally, the workers vowed to fight for higher pay and resist what they called the government's stepped-up crackdown on the labour movement.

## Capitalism gives good life to only a few, Castro says

SAO PAULO (R) — Cuban President Fidel Castro has told Brazilian that the capitalist system is only giving the good life to about 20 countries and is not helping the rest of the world.

The Cuban Communist leader, whose country is looking more isolated because of the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe, told news conference here on Sunday night: "Capitalism stimulates the worst instincts of mankind."

"Bourgeois capitalism is giving a good life to a limited number of countries in the world, only about 20. What about the rest of the world?" he said.

Castro, in Brazil to attend last Thursday's inauguration of President Fernando Collor de Mello,

flew Saturday to visit Sao Paulo, Brazil's big industrial and financial centre, where he got a warm welcome from a crowd when he visited the Latin American Memorial.

According to Veja, Brazil's main weekly news magazine, the Cuban leader "won the title of the major international star" at last week's inauguration.

Castro Saturday condemned what he called the robbing of "the people of the Third World."

Questioned at a news conference Sunday night about the fall of communism in Eastern Europe, Castro said: "Poland has its highest unemployment ever and highest inflation. Some day people there might remember what is good about socialism."

## Talking typewriter unveiled

NEWTON, Massachusetts (AP) — A new, voice-activated "typewriter" is a science-fiction dream-turned-reality that promises to boost productivity and open a world of opportunity for the handicapped.

The DragonDictate voice-activated typewriter, which was being formally unveiled Monday by Dragon Systems Inc., is billed as the first of its kind in the world.

"My only regret is that your product didn't come out 20 years ago," Frank Whitney, a quadriplegic Maryland computer scientist, told the company in a letter written on the system.

Whitney has used the system for the past year. The "typewriter," which consists of software and a speech-recognition circuit board for personal computers, allows users to create memos, manuscripts and other documents by speaking instead of typing. Users speak into a microphone and see text appear on a video screen at the rate of 35 words a minute.

The \$9,000-system can recognise 30,000 words and adapt itself to individual speakers. Until now, voice-activated systems had not been able to recognise more than 5,000 words. The commands are simple. To turn off the system, one says, "voice console: Go to sleep." To turn it on, the command is "voice console: wake up."

A mistake is corrected by saying "oops" and repeating the correct word.

Reagans visit boy fighting for life

NEW YORK (R) — Former President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, have visited a 12-year-old boy fighting for his life after being set on fire, allegedly by a teenager, when he refused to smoke "crack" cocaine.

"He's a very brave young man," Reagan told reporters after spending 15 minutes at the bedside of David Opat in the burn centre of New York Hospital. "You not only have great feeling for his recovery but resentment that these things can happen," said Reagan.

David, who has third-degree burns over half of his body, has been given only a 50-50 chance of survival. He is undergoing a series of painful grafts to replace damaged skin. The Reagans had to wear hospital gowns, caps and masks for the visit, which was closed to reporters. David's courageous fight for life has touched the hearts of many Americans.

Earlier Sunday, television star Bill Cosby visited the boy. Police said David had been taken to a garage used by drug addicts and ordered to smoke "crack."

When he refused he was beaten with a baseball bat, tied up, doused with inflammable liquid and set on fire.

Bush: No broccoli on Air Force One

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush reportedly has banned broccoli from a diet known to include pork rinds doused in hot sauce and candy bars crunched over cereal. The March 26 issue of U.S. News and World Report said Bush, an avowed vegetable hater and junk-food junkie, decreed that broccoli never be served on Air Force One, the presidential jet.

The report said, finally asserted himself after being forced to put up with the vegetable during his eight years as vice president. The no-broccoli edict raised at least one protest. "What will parents tell Johnny when he refuses to eat his broccoli or other vegetables?" said Bob Carey of the Produce Marketing Association, "that the president doesn't know what's good for him?"

## Global weather (major world cities)

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M - Indicates missing information.